

Iran, Iraq want 'atmosphere of trust'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Iraq have decided to carry on with talks aimed at creating an "atmosphere of trust" and better relations, informed sources said here Wednesday. The decision was taken at the end of week-long negotiations between Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Saad Abdul Majid Al Faisal and Iranian officials. Mr. Faisal arrived here last Thursday on the first high-level Iraqi visit to Iran since the 1991 Gulf war. Mr. Faisal said his country wanted to normalise ties with Iran and invited Mr. Velayati to visit Iraq. The two countries decided to conduct joint searches in the combat zones in Iraq for missing soldiers. They also discussed the return of Iraqi planes which flew to Iran for safety during the 1991 war. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi said.

receives Omani message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned from his official visit to Oman on Wednesday evening. He was accompanied by his son Prince Hashem bin Talal and his daughter Princess Haya bint Hussein. The King's visit to Oman was part of a series of official trips to the Gulf region. He was received by Sultan Qaboos bin Said at the Royal Palace in Muscat. The King and Sultan discussed the current situation in the Gulf and the role of the Arab League. They also discussed the recent developments in the Middle East. The King's visit was highly successful and was well-received by the Omani people.

hospital over ill

CAIRO (AFP) — A bomb attack on a Cairo-Luxor train Wednesday killed 11 people and wounded 100 others, including five foreigners, officials said. The attack occurred on a train carrying tourists from Luxor to Cairo. The train was hit by a large bomb as it was passing through a tunnel. The explosion caused the train to derailed and caught fire. The injured were taken to hospitals in Cairo and Luxor. The Egyptian government has launched an investigation into the attack. It is suspected that the attack was part of a terrorist campaign against the Egyptian government.

wounded in Egypt train blast

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Christopher to visit Japan in March

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced Wednesday he would visit Japan next month to try to resolve the trade dispute between the two countries. "We want to see the trade dispute between the two countries resolved," Christopher said. He will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and other Japanese officials. Christopher will also visit Osaka and Tokyo. The trade dispute between the U.S. and Japan has been a major issue for several years. It involves issues such as trade in automobiles, electronics, and agricultural products.

wounded in Somali clan fighting

MOGADISHU (R) — Two other Somali clans were involved in fighting over a disputed area of land near the port of Kismayo, a United Nations spokesman said Wednesday. He said 15 Somali soldiers were killed and 20 wounded in the fighting. The fighting occurred between the clan of the late President Siyad Barre and another clan. The UN spokesman said that the fighting was part of a larger conflict between the different clans in Somalia. The UN is trying to mediate the conflict and bring about a peaceful resolution.

Iran not nuclear bomb

TEHRAN (AP) — A senior Iranian military official on Wednesday denied Tehran was developing nuclear weapons or had agreed to provide to the European countries for North Korea to a long-range missile. "We are not developing nuclear weapons," the official said. He also said that Iran had not agreed to provide a long-range missile to North Korea. The official's statement was a response to reports that Iran was developing nuclear weapons and that it had agreed to provide a long-range missile to North Korea. The reports had caused concern in the international community.



AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24-25, 1994, RAMADAN 14-15, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

PLO expects accord to launch autonomy within three weeks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday edged closer to an accord on the launch of Palestinian self-rule, at the end of another round of negotiations in the Egyptian capital. "We need two or three weeks at the most to finalise an overall agreement" on autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters. He was speaking after three days of talks with his Israeli counterpart General Amnon Shahak that tackled outstanding security issues and the transfer of civilian powers. Gen. Shahak agreed at a joint news conference that "real progress" had been made, but the question of the release of more than 9,000 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel was "not yet finished."

agreement to launch autonomy if the Palestinians dug in. Three working groups have been set up for the Paris talks, dealing with trade and labour, direct taxation and banking and finance. PLO economic chief Ahmad Qouria was due to meet Mr. Shohat later Wednesday. Mr. Shohat was to stay in Paris until Saturday and the Israeli delegation was to stay over the weekend. Officials said they might work non-stop to reach an agreement now that most political obstacles to a final accord have been lifted. During previous rounds in Paris, advances were made on direct taxation while Israel offered facilities for farm exports from the occupied territories to Israel and a reduction in the price of consumer goods, notably cars, for the Palestinians. Palestinian officials denied that there were ever previous agreements accepting Israeli control, saying they wanted completely free trade.

said: "The day of meeting and signing is near." "I think that real progress has been made, there is more to work on next week," said Gen. Shahak. Dr. Shaath said the civilian committee handling the transfer of authority from Israel to the PLO had concluded discussions on all but two areas, water and planning. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the April 13 deadline for an Israeli troop pullout from Gaza and Jericho could slip. Mr. Peres said the PLO was making a mistake by pushing for symbols of a national economy "because it is impossible to feed children flags for breakfast." "I do not know if we will be able to meet exactly the April (deadline). It is possible it could take a month longer if everything goes smoothly," Mr. Peres told Israel's army radio. Israel and PLO delegations are meeting this week in Paris (Continued on page 5)



Fellow deputies try to calm down Mustafa Shwehat during a dispute that erupted in Wednesday's session after farmers in the galleries disrupted proceedings in protest against a House decision to refer a draft law to the Agricultural Committee (photo by Yousef Al Allana)

Faisal-Jammo exchange cuts short House session

Disputes among deputies mar lawmaking

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated exchange between deputies Toujan Faisal and Abdul Baqi Jammo brought to an abrupt end a session of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday. Speaker Taber Al Masri "regrettably" closed the session after Sheikh Jammo reacted with clear anger to Ms. Faisal's accusation that as president of the Judiciary Committee he violated regulations by referring a draft law on municipalities to the House before members of the committee could study it. Ms. Faisal asserted that "the Judiciary Committee acted in an illegal way" by referring the draft legislation to the House before its members could participate in debating it. "With respect to the irresponsible talk that this lady spreads through newspapers, the committee studied the law in three meetings that she did not attend," Sheikh Jammo countered. As Ms. Faisal tried to shout him down, Sheikh Jammo said: "I hope this House will not degenerate into a forum for cussing because in this case we will have to respond ... if this woman has men behind her, let them show up."

Many deputies expressed dismay over the way Ms. Faisal "is dealing with the House," saying the first woman deputy in the history of Jordan has antagonised most of her colleagues. "I teach discipline to children; I will teach discipline to this House," Ms. Faisal remarked as she walked out of the House in anger. Parliamentary sources said deputies' annoyance with Ms. Faisal will be clearly demonstrated when they vote on her bid to lift Parliamentary immunity from Deputy Jamal Kreisha whom she accuses of having insulted her during a meeting of a House committee. "A very small number of deputies will vote in her favour," said one deputy. Ms. Faisal has officially requested that immunity be lifted from Mr. Kreisha. The House has referred the request to its Judiciary Committee. Ms. Faisal has said she would pursue her charges against Mr. Kreisha when the House goes into recess if deputies do not lift the immunity from Mr. Kreisha.

Ms. Faisal has rejected all attempts to resolve her dispute with Mr. Kreisha insisting on a "parliamentary, legal and tribal solution" to the dispute. Deputies said Ms. Faisal lost the support of the House when she attacked it during a special session it held last week in an attempt to reconcile her with Mr. Kreisha. Another uproar broke out in the House during Wednesday's session when citizens levelled insults at deputies from the galleries. A group of farmers from the Jordan Valley shouted obscenities at the House when it delayed "a general discussion" of the agricultural situation in the Kingdom until after the Agricultural Committee had studied a speech made on the issue by Minister of Agriculture Mahdi Farhan (see page 10). Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi erupted in anger and demanded that the House speaker take action against those people for "insulting the legislature." Mr. Masri ordered police to empty the gallery before he called a break in the session. Deputy Mustafa Shneikat (Continued on page 5)

Tension remains high in Yemen

ADEN (Agencies) — Transport planes landed here Wednesday with tanks and other military reinforcements as skirmishes between northern and southern troops reportedly continued to threaten civil war, witnesses reported. Fighting reportedly flared in the Modia region on the Gulf of Aden coast for a third day despite Sunday's reconciliation pact signed in Jordan between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

No casualty estimates were available for Wednesday's reported clashes. About 15 people died in the first two days' clashes, according to both sides. The fighting has centred on Zinjibar, about 50 kilometres east of Aden on the coast. The clashes were triggered by northern units surrounding the town hall of Zinjibar, where a southern mayor had replaced a northerner, according to oil industry sources. Government sources up north in Sanaa, the capital, also said there were fears that as many as 300 villagers were slaughtered Tuesday by southern troops in Modia, which lies between Aden and Zinjibar. However, sources at the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) based here said they were unfamiliar with the report. Mr. Saleh and his followers in the General People's Congress (GPC) have played down the fighting, asserting that most of it has taken place between southern troops and disgruntled villagers. The YSP charged Wednesday northern army units had launched two offensives in southern Yemen. The party, in a statement broadcast on Aden radio, said southern troops were repelling the offensives, which were launched on Monday. The northern Al Amaliga Brigade, which is deployed in the southern Abyan region, 100 kilometres east of Aden, is trying to broaden its deployment area, the YSP added. Another northern unit, the Republican Guards, has occupied the Lahaj province, some 100 kilometres northeast of Aden, according to the statement. The YSP, which is led by Vice-President Beidh, urged the northern units to "return to barracks, and end quickly these criminal operations." It accused Al Amaliga of ambushing and killing 15 southern soldiers on Tuesday. But in Sanaa, GPC said two soldiers were killed and 20 wounded in the fighting. Mr. Beidh's top aide Saleh Saleh Mohammed warned in an interview with the United Arab Emirates news agency WAM of civil war if both sides do not implement Sunday's agreement. He said that by itself "the document is not a prescription for healing the Yemeni crisis as it required collective efforts from all parties... who want to save Yemen from a possible civil war and a cycle of violence and bloodshed."

Israel rejects Palestinian bid for economic independence

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat left Wednesday for economic talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Paris saying he was not happy with the latest Palestinian demands for "symbols of independence." "It doesn't look good," Mr. Shohat told reporters at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. "The Palestinians have changed their approach on aspects which Israel thought were already settled, for example, tax and trade between Israel and the autonomous Palestinian territories."

Negotiations on the economic status of Jericho and the Gaza Strip resumed in the French capital on Monday as a leaked PLO document said the PLO was seeking "symbols of economic independence." "I don't know if it's a fundamental shift or just tactical," Mr. Shohat added. But he warned of "a serious delay" in sealing an overall agreement to launch autonomy if the Palestinians dug in. Three working groups have been set up for the Paris talks, dealing with trade and labour, direct taxation and banking and finance. PLO economic chief Ahmad Qouria was due to meet Mr. Shohat later Wednesday. Mr. Shohat was to stay in Paris until Saturday and the Israeli delegation was to stay over the weekend. Officials said they might work non-stop to reach an agreement now that most political obstacles to a final accord have been lifted. During previous rounds in Paris, advances were made on direct taxation while Israel offered facilities for farm exports from the occupied territories to Israel and a reduction in the price of consumer goods, notably cars, for the Palestinians. Palestinian officials denied that there were ever previous agreements accepting Israeli control, saying they wanted completely free trade.

"We never had an agreement with Israel on any issues whether it was customs or banking," said Dr. Mohammad Ishtayia, a member of the Palestinian delegation. "All we did is exchange points of views on these issues and many others but no agreements were reached." Mr. Shohat threatened that Palestinian goods and workers would be cut off from their much needed Israeli market if an agreement on trade between Israel and the future autonomous Palestinian zone could not be reached. Palestinian businessmen have said repeatedly that without the Israeli outlet, since they have no alternate routes to the Arab World, their economic prospects are dismal. Over 50,000 Palestinians work in Israel. The loss of 50 per cent of their jobs from a year ago due to a spate of attacks on Israelis has caused widespread economic hardship.

U.S. demands Russian action in spy case; Moscow is flippant

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Clinton administration served blunt notice on Moscow that Russia should make amends "on its own volition" for eight years of espionage by a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official who allegedly sold secrets to the Kremlin. And if the Russians don't cooperate, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said Wednesday the United States should consider withholding financial aid to the fledgling democracy. In Moscow on Wednesday, Russian intelligence officials declined to discuss the case but said the United States was continuing to spy on Russia. "If the CIA had discontinued its intelligence activities in Russia, it would have been closed down," said Alexander Mikhailov, spokesman for the federal counter-intelligence agency, one of the successors of the KGB. The United States called in top-level Russians in both Moscow and Washington on Tuesday and delivered a stern message that Russia must assume responsibility for the

spy case or the United States would take further action, said a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We are not treating this as something that can be swept under the rug," the official said. "We have and will ask them to take a number of actions." The official declined to detail the U.S. demands but said that realluring Russians involved in the case and Russian cooperation in assessing the damage allegedly caused by CIA "mole" Aldrich Hazen Ames and his wife, Rosario, were both "in the ballpark" of the steps requested. Rather than act unilaterally to expel Russian diplomats or take other retaliatory action, "we would prefer that the Russians take whatever action we're talking about on its own volition," the official said. Pointing to the generally good U.S.-Russian relations in the wake of the cold war, the official added, "Our relationship is such that we think it's close enough and it's mature enough that the Russians

will undertake these activities on their own." If the Russians don't act voluntarily, the official said, "we'll have to take the action ourselves." Russia, warning against a wave of "spy mania," suggested Washington was overreacting to the scandal. "Returning to the psychology of the cold war and whipping up distrust and a new wave of spy mania would contradict the ideas of an international partnership for peace," President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman said. Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, asked if the incident could damage relations, said in Krakow, Poland: "I rule out any breakdown of our partnership. There may be complications, so we need to stabilise our partnership." A Kremlin spokesman, Anatoly Krasikov, said: "I think the president of the United States and the president of Russia want our relations, which are those of partnership and almost friendship, to re-

Summit call adds momentum to diplomacy for peace in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Momentum for peace in ex-Yugoslavia quickened on Wednesday as Russia called for a summit with the West to end the fighting after an international initiative that halted the bloodletting in Sarajevo. President Boris Yeltsin, pushing Russia's new diplomacy into high gear, proposed a one-day summit with four Western powers to end the fighting that has convulsed former Yugoslavia for the past three years. "I have proposed to put an end to the Yugoslav problem — let us meet, the leaders of Russia, the United States, France, Britain, Germany ... for one day," Mr. Yeltsin said in Moscow. "I have proposed Moscow, Geneva, Bonn, however... we would sign a document of historic importance and probably put a final end to the bloodshed in Yugoslavia," he added. The United States said it was studying Mr. Yeltsin's proposal. "We are aware of the request and we are reviewing it," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said. "I don't think we've ruled anything out. We're looking at a number of ways to try to move the diplomatic process forward."

Ms. Myers described a meeting of senior officials in Bonn on Tuesday as "productive." She said she could not comment on how Mr. Yeltsin had informed President Bill Clinton of his idea for a summit. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, testifying to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made no direct mention of the summit proposal, but said that cooperation with Russia on Bosnia was "not without its difficulties but nevertheless the overall cooperation has been positive." Mr. Christopher said that the United States was pursuing its efforts to promote a lasting peace settlement through encouraging a Croat-Muslim alliance that would create a kind of federated state and enable a two-way rather than a three-way division of the former Yugoslavia. In Brussels, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies expressed caution over whether the threat of air strikes that helped end the bombardment of Sarajevo could be extended to bring peace to other areas in Bosnia. Alliance sources said ambassadors from the 16 NATO countries — meeting for the first time since a Western ultimatum to Serbs besieging the Bosnian capital ran out on Sunday — agreed that there would be problems involved in repeating such threats. More troops would be needed to bolster U.N. forces on the ground if NATO threatened attacks elsewhere and the use of air power alone was not suited to bringing an end to the fighting in some

areas, the sources said. "Clearly, air operations to help bring about a ceasefire or to deal with heavy weapons can only work if there is an augmentation of troops on the ground," a NATO source told reporters after the scheduled weekly meeting. "If the question is whether Sarajevo can be used as a model, the mood is generally one of caution," said one NATO diplomat. NATO had threatened to launch air strikes against the Serbs unless they withdrew heavy weapons from around Sarajevo or put them under U.N. control by Sunday night. While the allies were pleased that the threat of force had worked, there was now a preference for pushing on the diplomatic front for an end to the 22-month-old war. In Sarajevo, U.N. General Michael Rose said close air support of U.N. soldiers under attack remained an option in Bosnia-Herzegovina despite NATO's failure to use warplanes to defend Swedish troops. Five Swedish U.N. soldiers were wounded when their convoy of armoured personnel carriers was attacked Tuesday near Ribnica in northern Bosnia. NATO jets were dispatched to defend them but could not determine exactly whom to fire on since the mortar attack had

(Continued on page 5)

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A HELPING HAND: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday plants a tree on the grounds of the Applied Sciences University where she also received from University President Bassem Abu Ghazaleh a cheque for JD 5,000 in support of the ongoing national charity campaign to collect funds for the needy in Jordan. (Petra photo)

Police abort pilferage attempt

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Tuesday aborted an attempted pilferage of seven metal bridges at Abyad Mines in Tallieh, according to a police report.

Five people in their mid-20s to early 30s were arrested by police while trying to cut the metal parts with blow torches.

Police reports indicate that a 44-year-old bus driver saw the five men pilfering the parts near his home and informed police.

One of the suspects, identified as N.M.T., told police that he received an offer from another suspect H.M.A. to help him cut up metal bars from the bridge earlier.

then take the scraps to Zaitqa to sell them.

Preliminary investigations by police indicated that H.M.A. stole seven metal bridges from Al Abyad Mines by dismantling them with the help of four other men.

According to N.M.T. it took the five men more than 10 days to undo the bridges before they were discovered by police.

A police official told the Jordan Times that these types of bridges are used to transport heavy machinery into the mines. He said the robbers stole the bridges for their scrap resale value, which he put at JD 40 per kilo.

Police said they have recovered all the stolen bridges and are investigating the incident.

6 programmes work to rehabilitate handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — The ministry of social development is implementing six programmes at its centres around the country to help rehabilitate handicapped persons.

The programmes are being carried out through the Ministry of Education schools and the vocational training centres, said Ministry Secretary General Suleiman Roussan.

He said the ministry is also executing a programme to guide families of the handicapped on the treatment of their children.

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New Jordanian- Egyptian trade protocol exempts 19 commodities from customs

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Wednesday signed a trade cooperation protocol aimed at boosting the exchange of national products.

Under the protocol, the sides agreed on a list of 19 commodities from both countries to be exempted from customs duty.

The exemptions do not cover internal taxes and fees such as sales tax, according to a statement following the signing ceremony.

Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf and Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Mahmoud Mahmoud signed the protocol following a meeting attended by officials from both sides at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The statement said that commodities not included in the list would be subject to regular customs fees and duty required by the importing country.

The protocol stressed that the Jordanian and Egyptian trade centres in Amman and Cairo should continue to sell national products directly to the public, according to the statement.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Dr. Khalaf said she hoped that the protocol would open a new chapter in fruitful cooperation.

She said the trade protocol was expected to stimulate economic exchanges between Egypt and Jordan.



Mohammad Mahmoud Wednesday sign a trade protocol in Amman (Petra photo)

Jordanian and Egyptian Ministers of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf and Mahmoud Mahmoud

Lecturers downsize debate on 'Islam and the media' to a call for religious propaganda

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Where the 40 odd guests thought they would participate in a fiery debate about "Islam and the media," possibly touching on the image of Islam in the western press, the lecturers managed to downsize the debate to a call for Islamist propaganda.

Tuesday's lecture by Dr. Ahmad Anani, a senior employee at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and former Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ziad Abu Ghannim only served to underline Mr. Abu Ghannim's admission that Islamists have failed to meet the challenge of exercising our media role in combating what is published about our nation.

Part of this lone state of "failure," the speaker underscored what they felt was a need to "spread the message of Islam" supporting their arguments with recitals of historical events at the time of Prophet Mohammad or unverified reports of how the "Jews" use media channels to tarnish the image of Muslims and Islam.

Mr. Abu Ghannim, a fierce critic of journalists who write sceptic articles of their Islamist movement, told the small group of listeners that he personally witnessed an advertisement for soap on a U.S. television channel that promised buyers that it "would clean anything, even Arabs."

"They brought an Arab, undressed him and put him in a bathtub and started scrubbing him," Mr. Abu Ghannim said, adding that the soap failed to clean the Arab after which the advertisers announced that the soap would be sent for tests. "The tests revealed that an Arab cannot be cleaned under any circumstances. Can you believe it?" No one answered but perhaps the fact that some of those listening left after that rhetorical question may have been an answer in itself.

Mr. Anani appears to understand the need to be a reporter of the truth if one is to have an effective media, but he also appeared to confuse objective reporting with propaganda. While Mr. Anani said that media in an Islamist society should be a "projection of the truth and justice," he immediately cancelled the thought by adding that "it is also a form of media that works as a deterrent and uses the word to that purpose."

In fact, at one point in his address, Mr. Anani cited the story of when Prophet Mohammad would not reveal "where, when, who, why" and a portion of the "what" — which constitute what is known as the "five W's" essential for constructing a newspaper report — as an example of media in Islam.

In that story, Prophet Mohammad was responding to questions by a tribe ahead of a major war and it was evident the story served as an example of Prophet Mohammad's war tactics when he said "you will be victorious" without adding any more details.

Mr. Anani said that the Prophet's statement was an example of "effective media" because the Prophet did not reveal "how, when, why or where," which appears to contradict the basics of effective journalism.

Mr. Abu Ghannim said he understood the media process to be "the transmission of information or a message from a sender to a recipient and this process leaves a positive or negative impact in the future."

What was common to the two lecturers' thinking was the need to use the national and international media to serve the causes of the Arab and Muslim nations.

But both speakers were only able to provide an unclear image of a media that would operate on sending a one-sided message aimed at influencing the minds of the recipients rather than actually transmitting the "truth" and leaving the reader to form his or her own opinion.

Mr. Abu Ghannim, in his address, seemed to address this failing when he said that the Islamic movement "has honestly failed in publishing one newspaper that could be a popular paper that addresses everyone and not only ourselves."

But in the same breath, he added that Islamists need to call to Islam "and either you believe or you do not believe it" or "you do not, you are an atheist."

Classical Indian dancer to alight on RCC stage

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The body balances in an amazing position defying gravity; the arms move gracefully around the body, the fingers open like a flower's petals in angles difficult to conceive.

Bharathanatyam (Indian dance) is in progression and the spinning dancer's eyes talk suggestively, as do her body, hands, gestures and the background music.

The classical dance, expression of devotion to God in which the dancer takes refuge, is not for the layman. Or for a purely talented person. One arrives at perfection and mastery of the art after years of training, perseverance, hard work and genuine desire to succeed.

And even when the dancer has perfect command of the technique, he/she might not be successful, says Subadra Muthuswami, who is going to perform the dance in Amman on Tuesday.

Success comes with the ability to convey a message to the audience, to pass on the emotion felt by the performer through gestures and mimic, to transpire the viewer into a world of spirituality and devotion.

Ms. Muthuswami, soft-spoken and articulate, started dancing at 18, "late" compared to those who start in early childhood, she says. But because it was a decision she took out of love for this art she has the strength to follow and make it a career.

Living in Madras in southern India, Ms. Muthuswami learnt Bharathanatyam from a dance school established in 1985. She has completed management studies in New York and has a master's degree.

Dancing and teaching dancing is what she wants to do above everything. And from the way she talks about the "temple" dance and the music accompanying it one can sense the professionalism.

The history of the dance, mostly performed in southern Indian temples, is traced back to its divine origins: The cosmic dance of Lord Shiva who handed the art to Suga Bharatha. The dancing code is a detailed treatise on every aspect of dance and the principles laid down by him can be found in every classical form of dance in India.

The word Bharatha consists of three syllables which give an idea of what the dance is: Bha stands for bhava (expression) through the face and body movements; ra stands for raga (music) and tha for thala (rhythm). Nattam means dance (or enactment).

Bharathanatyam is primarily a dramatic representation of philosophical teachings combining acting with dancing. Religious and mythical themes are portrayed through the use of hand gestures (mudras) and facial expressions and body movement (abhinaya).

The music used for the dance is Carnatic music, a classical music form in southern India. The lyrics of the songs are usually devotional, although contemporary themes are also represented.

A dance drama can last three hours, a solo performance one and a half to two hours.

The costumes are made of silk in bright colours, but never black which is not an auspicious colour.

Ms. Muthuswami's performance, arranged by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Indian Cultural Association in Amman is taking place at the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday.

Brochures to be handed out at the function explain the dance form and give a brief outline of what the movements mean.



Subadra Muthuswami

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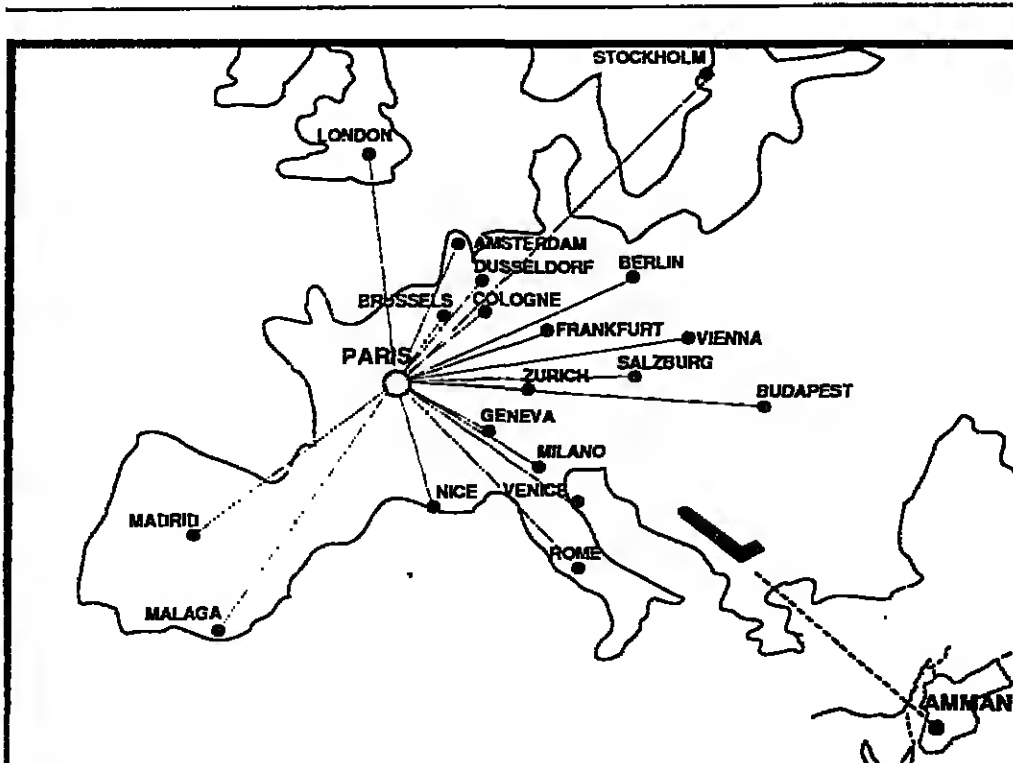
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- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Hamlet Crucified Again" on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "A Civil War Story" at the American Center on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. (122 minutes).
- ★ Musical performance by the Al Taht band presenting Arab songs at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Ramadan musical evening presenting songs by Omar Abdul Lat, Samira Al Asali, and Abdullah Sa'd at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 8:30 p.m.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Deeds, not words, instill confidence

AS ISRAELI and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegations continue to hammer out details of a security agreement for Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, Israeli military sources are predicting a dramatic increase in violence among the various Palestinian factions once Israeli troops leave the two areas. This is the essence of the warning that Israeli Chief of General Staff Ehud Barak made Tuesday to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

In one sense, this projection comes as no surprise since tension between the Palestinian groups over the PLO-Israeli accord of Sept. 13 is mounting steadily. The breakdown of law and order in Gaza and Jericho after Israeli troops pull out from them could be indeed imminent unless the Palestinians put their house in order.

Hamas is spearheading the struggle against Fatah, which negotiated and brokered the agreement with Israel. The Islamic movement appears to be doing so for both religious and political reasons.

To be sure, fundamentalism has grown into a force to reckon with not only within the Palestinian ranks but also in other Arab states such as Algeria and Egypt. The rise of religious extremism in the Arab World is obviously not targeting only the peace process. If anything, the Arab-Israeli peace talks are being exploited to further the political ends of extremism.

In basic terms, the possible bloody scene in the Palestinian territories is not basically different from that which exists in the rest of the Arab countries, where fundamentalism is on the rise. The common denominator for all the affected countries is the steady deterioration in the economic conditions of the Arab people. There is an obvious link between poverty and extremism. Without an adequate plan for such states, there can be no escape from a steady rise of fundamentalism.

Still, this is only one side of the equation. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat stated recently that he is increasingly worried about Israel's role in spreading arms in the occupied Palestinian territories. The tempo of the alleged Israeli move, the Palestinian leader warned, has picked up on the eve of the expected withdrawal from Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. It is thus legitimate to ask whether the Rabin government is deliberately undermining security in the occupied territories in a bid to prove that the PLO is unable to control the liberated lands.

What Mr. Arafat might have up his sleeves besides beefing up the size of his police force to pre-empt the threats from his political opponent or to check the flow of arms to hostile Palestinian groups is still an open question. What is known already, however, is that the PLO is calling for the creation of a 10,000 policeman force, while the Israeli side is insisting on no more than 6,000. Surely a compromise of sorts will be achieved on the number of the Palestinian security people who will have to maintain order in the affected areas. Something much more profound and sophisticated than brute force, though, must be relied on to maintain security in Gaza and Jericho. Perhaps it is premature to rule out an effective dialogue between the Palestinians once they become in control of their own comprehensive economic package for the area, could be one panacea to at least one aspect of the Palestinian woes. The other half of the problem, which seems to be Israeli created, cannot be expected to be rectified without the Rabin government's positive participation. Confidence-building measures such as the release of Palestinian prisoners, followed by an international economic rehabilitation programme for the entire Palestinian population, appears to be the best antidote for the cycle of violence in the territories whether before or after their liberation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday called on the Arab states to end their differences during the month of Ramadan and embark on reconciliation like that which has ended the disputes among the Yemeni leaders at their meeting in Amman. Ramadan is the time when the hearts should meet in affection and reconciliation and a holy moment for embarking on solidarity that would end disputes and divisions, said the daily. The paper said that the Arab masses who have expressed their delight at the end of differences among Yemeni leaders aspire to further joy from a wider circle of inter-Arab reconciliation and one that would end the sadness, hatred and defeat. In this month, we have reason to feel optimistic that the Arab Nation would, through solidarity, bring an end to inter-Arab divisions and dress the open wounds, said the daily. Any attempt by others to steer our destiny and direct the Arab states towards serving foreign purposes should not be allowed to succeed, added the paper. The Arabs should not surrender to foreign will and succumb to the wishes of foreign forces, the paper warned. Only through our own intrinsic power and potentials, said the paper, can we achieve our objectives and safeguard Arab national interests.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged the Arabs and Muslims to work towards ending the U.N. sanctions on Iraq. Mohammad Kawash said now that Iraq has complied with all the U.N. Security Council resolutions, some foreign powers led by the United States are trying to indefinitely extend the embargo with the purpose of perpetuating the suffering of the Iraqi people. He said we are in need of a brave Arab decision to confront the U.S.-led hostile forces and put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi children.

The Yemeni agreement, the emerging Jordanian role and the Arab Nation

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THERE IS no doubt that the signing in Amman a few days ago of the Yemeni national reconciliation agreement is a significant political act both in itself and in its implications.

First and foremost, the agreement is a blessing (at least potentially) to the Yemen people themselves. Those who know North and South Yemen well know that the two entities, like many other similar entities in the Arab World, do not make much sense separately. Together, they are a lot healthier and stronger. To be sure, not any two or more Arab states wishing to merge can necessarily succeed in doing so effectively. In fact, one can cite several examples from the Arab World where unity, for political as well as other equally crucial strategic factors, is nonsensical to even think about, let alone try to implement. Favourable conditions are a must for unity to happen and, more importantly, to work. Mere rhetoric and mere patriotic sentiments do not constitute a workable basis for a durable relationship. Unity is a serious business, not a game. The two Yemens have a lot in common. Geographically, historically, demographically, socially, economically and politically, they do certainly complement and augment each other.

This is not to say that they are one hundred per cent compatible. No. There are many intricate internal differences and oppositions which can cause (and have indeed caused) acute headaches. Moreover, the relationship between the two parts of the greater Yemen has not been, since the declaration of unity a few years ago, all milk and honey. There have been serious impediments, flaws and mistakes of all sorts — and some regrettable acts of violence. The speeches delivered at the signing ceremony, especially the Yemeni Vice President's speech, clearly caution against too much optimism and against trivialisation of the problems and obstacles involved.

Nevertheless, with much good will and determination — and the Yemenis have shown enough of both lately — the differences and oppositions can be safely and fruitfully manipulated and rechanneled to serve, not harm, the nation; similarly, the impediments, flaws and mistakes can slowly and patiently be overcome or rectified. The most encouraging thing about the recent Yemeni political crisis is Yemen's insistence to bring the crisis to a satisfactory ending through dialogue. Such democratic spirit is highly commendable. Oppressive, violent and dictatorial approaches are not only obsolete but also self-defeating and destructive.

The fact that the signing ceremony took place in Amman at this particular moment in Arab history is significant. Jordan, of course, has always been highly committed, in both words and deeds, to the cause of Arab solidarity and unity; it has never hesitated to put its humble means and resources at the disposal of any other Arab country when the interests of the overall Arab Nation are at stake, both in times of war and in times of peace. Throughout the recent Yemeni crisis, it has been greatly encouraging and supportive of the Yemeni brothers in their pursuit of national reconciliation. The Amman ceremony is thus symbolic of the spirit of Jordan's obligation to fraternal Arab states. This we all (in Jordan and the Arab World) know.

But it is also, more importantly, indicative of the extremely vital role Jordan can (and perhaps will have to) play from now on. The Arab Nation, and this is obvious to any keen observer, is presently in a sorrowful state of disorder, disarray and perhaps even chaos. Many of its member states are either lukewarm and at odds with each other or extremely busy with their own messy domestic affairs. There is very little cooperation and coordination among them, not only politically but also in other spheres. The fact that President Ali Abdullah Saleh thanked, in his speech at the ceremony, the USA and the European Union, but hardly any other Arab country (with

the exception of Jordan) is very telling; it leaves much room for pondering over the current Arab status quo and inter-Arab relations.

The point to emphasise here is that Jordan, under His Majesty King Hussein's leadership, is qualified (indeed called upon) to contribute very positively toward overall Arab reconciliation. It has the common sense, wisdom, experience, ability, charisma, temperament and personality to do so. Undeniably, the many Arab countries who attempted to guide and lead the Arab Nation throughout most of this century were well-meaning. Their efforts were (and still are) highly appreciated no matter what. Unfortunately, however, their approach was faulty. They got too carried away at times that they became too self-centred, conceited, chauvinistic, isolating, alienating, dominating and domineering. They treated the many fellow Arab states, not as peers or sisters, but as followers. For reasons well-known, Jordan does not have this problem. It has always considered itself one member among many, and it has always opted for consultation, dialogue and polite advice. Such is the new form of guidance and "leadership" that the Arab World requires at this point, a guide or "leader" who is a brother, an equal and an honest broker.

We need to tidy up, reorganise and coordinate (though not necessarily unify) the Arab Nation. For this to happen, we need to have a sincere initiator first and secondly (and equally significantly) reciprocation on part of the individual Arab countries, many of which, I am sure, value and cherish the same pan-Arab goals and ideals. We want a stronger, more amiable and more well-coordinated Arab World.

Jordan can do much. Its size is small, its resources are limited, but its will and vision are immense.

The writer is professor of American literature at Yarmouk University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



A faulty 'missionary' approach

U.S. 'worst' foreign policy failure unfolds in post-Communist Russia

By Stephen F. Cohen

PRINCETON, New Jersey

The worst and most predictable American foreign policy failure of the late 20th century has been unfolding in post-Communist Russia ever since the Soviet breakup in 1991. All the outcomes America wants in a country that remains so essential to its security — democracy, a prospering economy, a political establishment friendly to the West, major reductions and safeguarding of nuclear weapons and other devices of mass destruction — have been undermined by the U.S. government's own policy.

American politicians and pundits are belatedly awaking to that failure, but not to its full magnitude or the real reason behind it. Pointing the who-lost-Russia finger at each other, zealous promoters of a profoundly unwise policy, initiated by the Bush administration and expanded by the Clinton team, insist that it failed because the West did not give sufficient or timely financial aid to Russian reformers. Their self-serving excuses ignore the lessons that must urgently be learned if the American debacle in Russia is not to become a full-scale disaster.

At fault is the basic premise that has guided American policy since 1991: that the United States can and should intervene deeply in Russia's internal affairs in order to transform that nation into an American-style system at home and a compliant junior partner abroad. A preposterously missionary idea, it is in almost total conflict with Russia's historical traditions, present-day realities and possibilities, and thus dangerously counterproductive.

Consider how badly this policy has failed. Prospects for peaceful development towards stable markets and democracy in Russia are worse today than they were two years ago, and much

worse than they were when President Bill Clinton took office a year ago. The economy is in free-fall, ravaged by an extraordinary multiple collapse of production, capital investment, consumption, legal transactions and the ruble.

Moreover, Russia has had no real political system at all since Mr. Yeltsin destroyed the constitutional order by force last fall; it has had only his current efforts to create a personal regime of power. As a result, anti-democratic, military and other security forces now play a much larger role in domestic and foreign politics than they did a year ago.

Nor has Russia's foreign policy conformed with U.S. prescriptions. Its opposition to moving NATO eastward and to Western action against Serbia are just the latest evidence that Russian policies can be made and sustained only in Moscow, not in Washington. Meanwhile, almost nothing concrete has been done to reduce the various nuclear threats on former Soviet territory, which are greater today than they were under the Soviet regime.

As for the U.S. wager on Boris Yeltsin as the popular instrument of the American crusade, 85 per cent of Russian participants in the December elections voted against his policies and party. Still worse, a significant part of the anti-Yeltsin vote was an anti-American backlash against the intrusive U.S. role there.

More recently, the administration's apparent remoteness from Russian realities allowed President Clinton to be embarrassed by a Potemkin-village summit meeting with Mr. Yeltsin in Moscow. Promises made by Mr. Yeltsin about the composition and direction of his government were immediately violated.

The "breakthrough" on persuading Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons looks

even more dubious as Ukrainian-Russian relations worsen. And in Belarus, which Mr. Clinton visited after Moscow, the pro-Western president was removed just after his departure.

Finally, at home the Clinton administration has created so many illusions and false expectations about Russia's possibilities that current developments are generating an anti-Russian backlash — certainly against more aid for reform. A new U.S.-Russian cold war may not yet be on the horizon, but a chilly peace is now more likely than the vaunted "era of partnership and friendship."

It is said that the United States must support Mr. Yeltsin because he is Russia's elected president. But President Clinton and his aides have gone far beyond that norm of international relations, becoming his cheerleader, accomplice and spin doctor, and thus implicating America in some of his most ill-advised and even wicked deeds.

To understand that complexity, we must see Mr. Yeltsin's leadership through the eyes of a great many Russian citizens. For them, he has been an extremist leader imposing from above — an old Russian tradition — exceedingly radical policies for which they never voted.

His most extreme measures came as three still traumatic shocks to society. In 1991 he suddenly abolished the Soviet Union, the only country that most Russians had ever known. In 1992 his economic "shock therapy" took away the life savings and living standards of most Russian families. And in 1993 his tanks overthrew the elected parliament and constitutional system previously presented to citizens as the legitimate post-Communist order.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Yeltsin's shock leadership utterly polarised Russian society, devastating all varieties of mod-

eration and centrism in political life.

Deeply wounded, polarised and angry, Russia desperately needs moderate, consensual, gradual reforms. Any more shocks will almost certainly send some rough beast slouching towards the Kremlin. A broad coalition of Russian moderates — "centrists" who see themselves trapped between Mr. Yeltsin and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — is struggling to emerge as a political force capable of reshaping the reform process, with or without Mr. Yeltsin. Some such moderate bloc is Russia's best hope, and possibly last chance, for democratic and market reform. It is thus America's only hope for a Russia engaged in progressive change at home rather than in a pursuit of lost power abroad.

If the Clinton administration heeds the lessons of its missionary failures in Russia, it will adopt a new and moderate principle of its own: The United States does not have the wisdom, right or power to intervene so deeply in Russia's internal affairs: all attempts to do so will backfire perilously.

On that principle, the United States should withdraw its excessive presence in Russia, cease its dogmatic sermons and dollar-laden ultimatums, and encourage Russia to find its destiny, as it must, within its own circumstances and possibilities. And when — or, for pessimists, if — Russia finds its own way towards political and economic reform, even if it is not the American way, the Clinton administration will be able to give generous financial assistance, as it must, that is both fruitful and honourable.

The writer is professor of politics and director of Russian studies at Princeton University. The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

The Cuban dilemma

The embargo against Havana to remain a fixture of U.S. policy

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Now that the trade embargo against Vietnam has been lifted, why not a similar gesture toward another reform-minded Communist country that lusts for American dollars: Cuba?

Cuba is a different country from a few years ago when it engaged in military adventurism, exported revolution and provided the Soviet Union with major political, strategic and intelligence benefits. It also was a transit point for South American cocaine bound for the United States.

But with the collapse of European Communism, all that has changed and Cuba, like Vietnam and most other countries, has been focusing on its economy. It has muted its anti-Americanism, legalised private dollar holdings, and seems eager for a new relationship with the United States.

Opinion is divided as to whether the United States should be more generous toward Cuba but agreement is virtually unanimous that the embargo will continue to be a fixture of U.S. policy.

The reason is perhaps best summed up by former secretary of state James Baker, who reflected a widespread view that the United States should do nothing to rescue President Fidel Castro at a time of economic crisis in Cuba.

"Stick a fork in him. He's done," Mr. Baker said recently.

U.S. officials and other experts point out that the Cuban and Vietnamese cases are not comparable. As the price for ending the embargo, the Vietnamese were merely asked to cooperate in providing an accounting for the 2,200 Americans still missing from the Vietnam war. In contrast, Cuba is being asked, in effect, to scrap its entire system.

In the administration's most detailed policy statement to date, Assistant Secretary of State Alexander Watson said last fall, "Our relations will not improve and the embargo will not be lifted until such time as there are democratic reforms and respect for human rights in Cuba."

Mr. Castro has rejected appeals for Western-style democracy and remains unflin-

ching in his support for Cuba's one-party state.

Gillian Gunn, a Cuba expert at Georgetown University, noted that President Bill Clinton was able to lift the embargo against Vietnam by saying that would actually enhance the quest for information about the missing Americans.

Because of the different nature of the U.S. demands on Cuba, she says, a productive negotiation with Cuba is out of the question.

"No government is going to engage in a dialogue aimed at its own overthrow," she says.

Harvard University professor Jorge Dominguez points out that the United States actually tightened the embargo against Cuba following the collapse of the Soviet bloc.

"Logic is not the dominant theme in this matter," Dr. Dominguez says.

Within months after the Soviet Union dissolved, Congress hoped to deliver a knockout blow against Mr. Castro by barring third-country U.S. subsidiaries from exporting to Cuba and preventing ships traveling to Cuba from docking at U.S. ports. But Congress also took steps to expand deliveries of humanitarian supplies to Cuba.

Mr. Dominguez says he would retain much of the trade embargo against Cuba but would maximise the opportunities for contracts between Cubans and Americans by permitting normal commercial air traffic and other measures.

The main effect of restricting contacts, he says, "has been to assist the Cuban government to censor information." Maintaining the embargo, while popular among many influential exiles, has entailed costs internationally for the United States. When the issue has come up for votes in the U.N. General Assembly, support for the U.S. position has been almost non-existent.

In addition, a new report by the U.N. Human Rights Commission contends the Cuba embargo is actually counterproductive.

U.N. investigator Carl-Johan Groth says the embargo "is creating political barriers to more far-reaching action at a time where the urgent reactivation of the economy is necessary from a humanitarian...human rights perspective."

LETTERS

Television and languages

To the Editor,

LEARNING a foreign language is not easy. When you live in the countryside, or if you are not free to talk with native-speakers of that language, the difficulty is doubled, because you have little chance to practice.

The Tawjili has an English exam. If you do not get a high score, you will not get an acceptance to a public university, where tuition is reasonable. As a result, some groups of people who want to continue their studies face a disadvantage.

So, if foreign language programmes were available through television and radio, it would be very helpful for them. They can get valuable practice in the language through this.

In Japan, these kinds of language programmes are shown everyday. Text books are available and not expensive. I believe a government subsidy is paid to support these programmes.

Tomoe Murakami
Aqaba, Jordan.



Who's afraid of Israeli culture?

By Mohammad Masharyah

These days the media, cultural centres and cultural seminars are busily turning their attention to the grave danger posed to the Arab World by the expected normalisation of cultural relations with Israel.

Fakri Kaawar, president of the Arab Writers Federation (AWF), calls for a strong confrontation of any normalisation of cultural relations with Israel. He is alarmed by its image and its consequences on the Arab World and is calling on all intellectuals and honourable men to confront this process so that the "Israeli enemy" can remain an isolated entity in the Arab region.

An intellectuals like Kaawar, who are raising the issue to cry over the normalisation process, call on the Arab to adhere to their Arabic language, Arab and Islamic traditions and Arab history while at the same time adopting means for ensuring public freedoms, equal, political pluralism and human rights, provided they conform to Arab national interests.

Kaawar, who claims to have drawn up a code of honour for Arab intellectuals, has collected signatures to his views from the federation board members, among himself as a partial ruler and using terminology reminiscent of the stringent rule of the church and practice of excommunications in medieval Europe.

Kaawar declares that the AWF would determine its position in the light of the stand and attitude of intellectuals towards the ongoing Arab-Zionist struggle because he says, it is a struggle for survival.

The stand can also be determined from their reaction to and views and ideas about those who advocate the normalisation process with the Israeli enemy, Kaawar adds.

Intellectuals like Nahedh Hattar, a Jordanian judge, and Muwaffaq Mahadin, a writer, call on the intellectuals to completely boycott the Palestinian leadership and demand its downfall. They rule out any

discussion of a federation or confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian people, claiming that such plans have been hatched by Israel.

They both call for alliance and even unity between Jordan and Syria regardless of the nature of Syria's political regime and voice their total rejection of any form of normalisation with Israel which they describe as treason and capitulation.

Should the writers and intellectuals listen to such terse rules and adopt a stringent position, they would be transforming their writings into a tool in the political conflict and would step up exchanges of recrimination and political trades. Such development would indeed transform dialogues into war.

Too many writings about the danger of cultural normalisation with Israel, depicting the process as the sole danger threatening the Arab society, can only serve as a smoke screen that stands in the way of searching for solutions for the country's numerous problems, concealing the many other dangers facing the Jordanian public.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

This trend leads to the creation of certain dialogues serving the objectives of the totalitarian and politically-oriented groups that aim at fragmenting and dividing the Arab intellectuals, both the supporters and opponents of the normalisation process.

Advocates of the confrontation with the normalisation process have adopted their present stand ever since the start of the Madrid conference and they are using certain slogans that they believe would serve as an excuse for rejecting the negotiations. Indeed, those intellectuals who have failed in peddling their political ideas have now shifted their attention to the cultural arena where they hope to win credibility for themselves while being armed with their political ideologies.

In the view of Mustapha Hamareh, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan,

the so-called leftist and socialist intellectuals along with the political authorities in the country are horrified by the mere idea of normalisation process. They have, to date, failed to deal with the problems facing the Kingdom's political, social and economic life, and they are naturally afraid of the coming stage.

By adopting this attitude, these intellectuals stand by the corrupt bureaucratic system which has for decades benefited from the prevailing situation in the country and exploited the period during which the country was in isolation and facing social divisions that were justified by the so-called security requirements. These groups view the coming openness as a danger threatening their own interests and privileges.

It is to be noted that the future, as envisaged by the lame peace process, does not tolerate any corrupt bureaucracy and such privileges, and those who have thrived from it in the past. These intellectuals and the bourgeois class that have lived so far as parasites at the expense of the Jordanian society, fear the change because it would deprive them of many benefits in the future stage. These intellectuals, including businessmen and industrialists, have been enjoying customs protection for their imported low quality goods by at least 50 per cent, benefitting from financial facilities given them under extraordinary circumstances. These people realise that competition in the coming world of open trade would severely harm their interests.

Today, the political, bourgeois and parasitical Jordanian system, for the first time in the country's history is backed by a front of revolutionary leftists and extremist elements.

This alliance groups the politically unsuccessful intellectuals, who possess very superficial culture, together with the politicians and the industrialists who have managed their business in the style of a village shopkeeper.

The question here is: Does the cultural normalisation, as painted to us by these groups, constitute real danger? Indeed, the so-called cultural invasion in general and

that which is coming from Israel in particular, as presented to us, is misleading and wrong. There is nothing called pure and original culture because all cultures are interacted and subject to external influence to a certain degree. The Israeli culture is nothing but part of the Western culture.

Fakhri Saleh, a Jordanian writer and critic says the Egyptian peace treaty with Israel did not help the Israeli culture to invade that of Egypt, since it lacks the unique character that distinguishes it from the Western culture.

Let us therefore delve into issues of substance, to the economic normalisation and the Israeli-Western plans to impose economic hegemony on the Arab World.

Saleh says that Arabs face the danger of being subjected to American hegemony and Israeli economic domination. Lebanese novelist Elias Khouri says: Economy is the real issue and here we should pause to discuss how we can resist such attempts at hegemony and normalisation.

As to cultural normalisation which is a more complicated matter, it is an issue of a different nature because culture is deeply-rooted in the nation's history, says Khouri.

Culture in Jordan and the rest of the Arab World should start busying itself with the question of the future in the light of the expected change in the area. It should embark on self-examination and assessment in order to pave the way for the establishment of a truly independent, free and democratic entity and escape the dark tunnel created by the dictatorships that have used culture as an approach to capitulation. We need to avoid culture that has supported brutal capitalism and the primitive forms of power that have been ruling the societies of the Arab World.

It is the Zionist culture that should in fact fear the cultural openness, because Zionism has been raised and has thrived within a closed society. Cultural characterised with originality is safe from external influences that tend to harm it. Many such cultures have withstood all such harmful attempts in the past.

Berlin Film Festival tries in vain to stop Hollywood

By Kirk Kirschbaum
Reuters

BERLIN — There are no more reading "Yankee Doodle" but the sentiment is still there in the Berlin Film Festival as the festival's bated breath and the industry's fight to bring Hollywood to the festival.

The festival, which opened on Monday, is the 44th annual Berlin International Film Festival, which concluded on Sunday.

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By Annie Charalambous
Reuters

NICOSIA — Cyprus are paying thousands of dollars to adopt a child from poverty-stricken Romania, but some of the supposed victims don't want to hear about a crackdown.

"We all know there are adoption networks in Cyprus... They make a fortune ripping off childless couples," said Yiannakis Agapiou, a member of parliament for the Communist Akel Party.

He told a parliamentary committee that childless Cypriots, who find the number of orphans put up for adoption on the tight-knit Mediterranean island is extremely small, easily fall prey to opportunistic adoption agents.

"They (the agents) bring children from the former Communist Bloc... mostly orphans from Romania," he said. The agents then charge hefty fees, which can spiral upwards to 13,000.

Mr. Agapiou called for a crackdown only to be besieged with phone calls from some of the island's

Childless Cypriots want to adopt: Cost no object

estimated 5,000 childless couples.

"I got phone calls from enraged couples telling me it was none of my business and that I should drop the issue," Mr. Agapiou told Reuters.

"A couple asked me: What would you do if you were in our shoes? Our only hope is these agents at whatever the cost."

"Maria", a Cypriot woman who paid an agent about \$13,000 to adopt a Romanian child, said she felt she had no choice.

"We know we have been fooled, we know these middle-men are illegal and make a fortune out of our desperation but what can we do?" Maria asked.

"I wouldn't want to ruin any couple's chance to get a baby because I know how wonderful it is to hold a baby in your arms."

Maria and her husband

had tried for almost a decade to have a child of their own. "I tried everything... in-vitro fertilisation too... Nothing, no positive results," she said.

So they filed an adoption application at the Mediterranean island's Welfare Department, got approval, and waited and waited.

With no word from the department, they took a friend's advice and approached an adoption agent in Cyprus.

The middleman claimed he had to pay \$11,000 to the director of the Romanian orphanage who got the couple a three-year-old girl and for various "bureaucratic procedures."

Maria also paid the Romanian authorities another \$2,000 plus travel and accommodation expenses.

"We soon found out our

agent gave the orphanage director only \$100. The rest went into his pocket. I suppose," she added.

The Welfare Department neither confirms nor denies rumours of profiteering by adoption agents, but has warned childless couples not to get diverted from legal adoption channels.

"We have no evidence. Not a single couple came to us to report they had fallen into a trap. But we are worried, we've heard of many stories," senior officer Myrianthi Papaioannidou told Reuters.

"We understand how they feel... They know it is illegal to pay to have a child so they don't dare report crooks," she said.

What these couples also know is that it's almost impossible to find a child up for adoption in Cyprus.

"It's a small island, families are close and very tradi-

tional... Plus they're scared of the difficulties a Cypriot child will face once he grows up," she added.

Ms. Papaioannidou said couples could trust the Cyprus Childless Couples Association which is in touch with officials and lawyers in Romania.

Association head Thanos Papadopoulos told Reuters allegations about adoption networks began four years ago when Cypriots discovered Romania was a haven for orphans.

"We cannot confirm these rumours either because no couple will ever report these agents. Before it was Lebanon... Now it's Romania," he said.

The non-profit association says only a small portion of the estimated 300 adopted Romanian children in Cyprus today came through it.

"Only 20 children came

through the association last year. But we know dozens more came through other channels," he said.

The Welfare Department said there were cases in which pregnant Romanian women were brought over and sheltered until they gave birth or mothers would accompany their children here for the adoption.

"What the Childless Association does is bring couples in touch with Romania's adoption committee. Romania likes to know only one association rather than 2,000 individual couples," Ms. Papadopoulos said.

An adoption from Romania should cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000, including legal fees, he added.

Ms. Papadopoulos said some "very unfortunate" incidents could have been avoided if couples were properly guided.

"Two years ago we had a Romanian child with AIDS and recently we had another two with hepatitis B," he said.

The child with AIDS was not sent back to Romania, the Welfare Department told Reuters.

Private school educates Chinese children to become world citizens

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

DUJIANGYAN, China — It's noon break at the Guang Ya private primary school and a handful of Chinese students have gathered around their English teacher to practice a favourite phrase.

"Live long and prosper," they shout gleefully — a perfect rendering of the Vulcan greeting from science fiction's Star Trek.

A youngster proffers a business card that identifies him as Kirk. "Hi," he says in English. "I'm seven. I'm in Grade 2."

In a nearby classroom, 4- and 5-year-olds are singing a Christmas tune. Outside, older students — Elvis, Clint, Gomer, Stella and the rest — march to the canteen chanting "left, right, left, right."

Guang Ya is like no other school in Communist China. Its 240 students are among the first to be educated outside the state school system, which is

notoriously under-financed and over-politicized.

Established in September 1992 on the outskirts of Dujiangyan, a town in southwest China's Sichuan province, Guang Ya attracts boarding students from across China, mostly children of the new, increasingly wealthy business class.

Many parents hope an education here, with such nonstandard offerings as computer training, horseback riding and English classes with American teachers, will boost their kids' chances of entering top foreign universities.

Chinese authorities have tolerated Guang Ya and hundreds of other private schools, from kindergarten to college, that have opened the past few years. The government lacks the money to provide even basic education for all children; private schools can take up the slack and teach special skills needed for modernisation.

But with tuition charges far beyond the means of all but a few families, the

schools have aroused debate in a Socialist nation that still pays lip service to egalitarianism.

By placing strong emphasis on developing independent thinkers' Guang Ya and other private schools also pose a potential challenge to a regime that demands ideological conformity.

"In the past, education primarily put politics first," said Qing Guangya, 38, a spirited former film director who founded the school. His goals, however, are molding "citizens of the world" with a strong sense of personal initiative.

This is how he does it: While the nation's leaders urge schools to show prescribed "patriotic films" about Mao Tse-Tung and other Communist heroes, Guang Ya's closed circuit television also presents such U.S. children's programmes as Sesame Street and Mister Rogers.

Four Americans in their early 20s teach English and expose the students to such

staples of American culture as giving kids self-confidence and self-esteem," said Michael Connor, director of admissions at Ojai.

That's evident each morning when Guang Ya students assemble before two towering flagpoles flying the national and school flags. In addition to a pledge of Chinese patriotism, they vow to "be honest, diligent, brave and dedicated to universal love."

With trappings such as an upright piano and 28-inch Toshiba colour TV in each classroom, Mr. Qing's vision of quality education does not come cheap. He was able to establish the school only after raising three million yuan (\$345,000) in contributions from his father's wealthy friends, and needs to expand to become profitable.

Annual tuition is 28,000 yuan (\$3,200), roughly 14 times the urban per capita annual income. That means the school is filled with students like Suzanne, a 10-

year-old whose family has two homes, a cook, a maid and a fleet of cars that includes a Lincoln Continental and a Mercedes-Benz. Her father heads an energy company.

Little wonder that commentators in official newspapers conduct a continuing debate over whether an "aristocrats' school" is suitable to Communist China.

Mr. Qing rejects the label and argues that Guang Ya instills discipline and a sense of equality while discouraging egocentrism.

With 16 students per dorm room, living conditions are far less comfortable than in most students' homes. The school has taken in five orphans to provide at least a token social mix.

Through it all, Mr. Qing insists he is doing nothing that clashes with national policy.

"Face modernisation. Face the world. Face the future. This is Deng Xiaoping's education policy," he said, invoking the name of China's supreme leader.

Four strong pillars

By Jean-Claude Elias

Even those who do not own or use a personal computer (PC) know by now who is Microsoft. The giant American software company has become as much a household name as it is a business name. Its founder, chairman and chief executive officer, Bill Gates, one of America's richest businessmen is listed with celebrities like Michael Jackson, Elizabeth Taylor or President Bill Clinton.

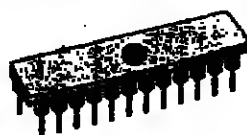
Microsoft grip (some would call it monopoly) on the world of PC software came slowly but surely, in a very systematic, orderly way. They applied, with near perfection, the good old saying: "First things first". A simple, quick, unquestionable "top four" compilation of the most important, general-use programmes a PC owner needs would be, in sequence: the operating system (OS), a word processor, a spreadsheet and a data base.

The MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System) was the first OS to be recognised as a world standard and no one would now think of reconsidering it. It was launched in 1983. A few years later, Microsoft added the now famous Windows OS that brought a friendlier, easier environment to those who found DOS too difficult. Now Windows has also become a standard, a "must".

With Word for Windows as a powerful word processor and Excel as a spreadsheet, Microsoft completed an already remarkable sequence. Naturally there were (and still are) excellent word processing and spreadsheet programmes by other software developers — WordPerfect, Lotus, Quattro to name only a few. Microsoft however has succeeded in exceeding their sales worldwide.

The last stronghold of general-use software that Microsoft had not attack so far was a data base programme. Clipper, Paradox, dBase and FoxBase were still the leaders. Actually FoxBase became one of Microsoft products after the company bought Borland,

chip talk



FoxBase developer, but it was not Microsoft "natural child."

Enters "Access". In the spirit of Word and Excel, the new database, designed and developed by Microsoft provides both simplicity and power of use, while being totally "Windowed", that is to say originally designed for a Windows environment. The features, the possibilities of Access are too long to even list here and might be the subject of a separate Chip Talk.

Early versions of Access (number 1.0 and 1.1) were successful from the very start. The company however was collecting customers' feedback in view of releasing a more final version. Access 2.0 has just been announced by Microsoft and is going to be commercially released in March this year.

Having covered the four major, above mentioned, software pillars, what could Microsoft do in the next stage, apart, of course, from continuing to improve the existing versions of their packages? They might try to enter specialised fields like accounting, engineering or CAD (computer aided design). Anything can happen.

When a few complain about the de-facto monopoly on the world of PC software by Microsoft, millions of happy users just smile — all they want is good, reliable, powerful and easy to use programmes. The rest doesn't really matter to them.

Attitudes in education

By E. Yaghi

From the teacher's point of view

Most experts in the field of education agree that the three basic elements of teaching are, the teacher, the student, and the textbook. The most important of these elements is the teacher, for if that teacher is well-qualified and capable in instruction, even if the textbook is of poor quality, he will be able to make it useful and of service. Also, if the students are not quite up to par, if the teacher is exceptional, he can make them work as a team and cross that ocean of ignorance to the island of knowledge and light.

However, let's begin with the higher institutes of learning and assume that a professor is capable, well-trained and efficient at his job of teaching. What then might irritate him about his students? Imagine that such said professor just walked in the door of his classroom and greeted his students with, "Good morning" and a kind smile on his face. One of the very first things that would tend to wipe that smile off is that after his entrance into the lecture hall, his students continue to go on talking as if he isn't there at all. Obviously, any student that ignores the presence of his instructor is rude and it is the right of his teacher to reprimand those who do not respect the ethics of what one considers polite classroom behaviour.

As the professor begins his lecture after successfully getting the attention of his class, along comes that forever string of tardy students one after the other. Yet, if the professor is late to his lecture, his students stampede for the door and fill the halls with relieved yays, though some of these same students feel free to saunter into the lecture at any time they want much to the annoyance of an instructor — and very distracting to the other students — who may be trying to control his temper while attempting to carry on his discussion.

Another pet peeve of instructors are those buddies who just have to sit next to each other during every class in the back of the room to gossip, talk, or make faces at each other or their teacher. In such instances, they shouldn't be surprised if they are thrown out of the class, but usually, most professors issue many warnings often to no or little avail.

Once the lecture is begun, any rational lecturer would expect that his pupils come to class prepared and to have read the assigned material in order to be familiar with it beforehand. No teacher likes to give a one-man performance to students who blink their blank eyes as if they have no idea what is being discussed. And this is congruent with those students who even though they never read the material except just before the exam, complain about their low grades, taking for granted that they really are geniuses but their instructor was too unfair and therefore just didn't appreciate them. Then there are those students who try to demonstrate in front of their peers that they know more than their teachers. There are occasions of course where some professors lack the appropriate amount of knowledge, but more often than not, most professors have a wealth of

information within them and it is more a matter of how to get that knowledge across to the students. As many a time students will be queued up to photocopy their friends notes because they were too unconcerned to study or take good notes themselves in the first place, it is wise however for instructors to speak at an intelligible rate so that those who wish to record his information will be able to.

Some students use their high marks as a prestige and walk around with their noses in the air, priding themselves on their superior intelligence. It is not by grades, other students form social cliques and snub any they feel unworthy of their attention. These social groups are often formed according to the divisions of the students' fathers or by which side of the students live, or by the importance of their name. And then there are those female students' amazement of not only professors but any who have chance to see them who wear hair styles and make-up if they were going to a wedding, not to school in order to study and learn. Such are the pupils who have convinced themselves that the university is a social place or a place to snatch a mate.

It must also annoy a teacher when he sees students laugh for no apparent reason or sit and snicker through the whole lesson session. Such students do not belong in class for those who do not take studying seriously detract from those who do and occupy precious time denied to many who would love to have a chance to study at any university.

The teacher, whose time is money, is there put forth his best efforts to those who seek knowledge and nothing must be quite as infuriating as students who put away all their books and pens before they are partly dismissed. Furthermore, cheating on exams is a terrible and stricter measures should be taken against those caught so that others will not be so easily led.

The aforementioned are but a few of the things that get on teachers' nerves whether at the university or at lower institutes of learning. And don't for the hilly pupil who likes to try his muscles out on every other student who tries to give him better grades.

Teachers should be listened to by their employers for they have first hand knowledge of what is or is not good for their students. Often weaknesses in the field of education will not be because the instructor is not willing to exert his greatest effort but because he is helpless against those bureaucrats who make unreasonable policies that improve no one. Since John is blessed with intelligent teachers and students, cannot try their best to produce the best results for who efforts from great endeavour but the student, the teacher and society as well.

The teacher then must remember the three F's: Firm, fair and friendly and that he is the most important element in the realm of education, but any future student who takes his studies seriously realises that much depends on himself also. The teacher must be the graceful guide to the land of knowledge and the student must also be a willing and eager tourist.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammed A. Shugair

AMAZING FACTS

- The tusks of an elephant continues to grow until the animal dies.
- The letters RX are a doctor's prescription meaning: 'take'.
- The tallest tree in the world is 364 feet in height.
- Kharkov Prison in Russia is the largest prison in the world and has, at times, accommodated 40,000 inmates.
- A skilled Eskimo and his wife can build an igloo in less than an hour.
- Jacqueline Cochran was the first woman to fly faster than the speed of sound.

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- You are not to do that. Eyyaka ann taf'al zalek.
- Nobody is to know. Yajih ann la yarif zaleka ahad.
- I've a lot of work to do. Indi mashagil katira.
- I had a happy time last night. Kadayto waklan sa'cedan laylat am.
- If I were you, I should put an end to all that. Law konto makanak lawadato nehaya likolli zalek.
- Forgive me, I'm so sorry. Saamehni, ana asif jiddan.
- He's at a loss. Innaho fee heera.
- That's what I mean. Haza ma aksidoho.
- Don't be silly! La takon ahmak!
- Don't be late tomorrow. La tata'akhar ghadan.
- Never be in a hurry! La tasta'jil ahadan!
- Never be a backbiter! La takon maghathani!
- Love is all there is. Al-hobb howa kollo shay.
- God is. Allah mau'food.

YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

BACKACHE

This is a common complaint, and is usually due to a type of muscular rheumatism, or may follow an unaccustomed strain such as digging. A hot bath followed by a rub over the affected part with liniment will often clear the condition up. In women a chronic low backache is sometimes due to disease or displacement of the uterus (womb), and in both sexes backache is occasionally a symptom of some internal disorder. If a backache persists for more than a week or so, a doctor should be consulted, but the great majority of backaches are not serious and will disappear with simple treatment.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

LIBRARY: A generally fortunate omen but particularly auspicious for those engaged in artistic or creative activities.

ISLAND: An obstacle dream if you were a castaway on one, and the outcome of your problem depends on whether or not you were rescued or succeeded in getting safely away. However, if your dream featured living on or visiting an island, you can expect to have a new and exciting experience shortly.

COOKING IS FUN

CALAMARES

Calamares is often found in restaurants, but it is so simple to prepare and cook at home. Try it as a starter, or serve these deep fried rings as unusual nibbles at a party.

COMPONENTS:

450g squid (ink fish)
175g flour
2 large eggs
Salt and pepper about 6 tbsp, cold water, oil for frying, sliced lemon and parsley for garnish.

METHOD

Wash the squid and discard the tentacles, ink sac and any bony parts. Slice the fleshy body into rings up to 1cm thick. Dry on absorbent paper. Heat about 2.5 cm oil in a large saucepan and cook the pieces of squid, a few at a time, for 5-8 minutes. Drain on kitchen paper as they are fried.

Meanwhile make a batter by beating the flour, eggs and seasoning with enough water to give a coating consistency.

Add more oil to the pan and reheat. Dip the squid, a few pieces at a time, into the batter and deep fry them, turning the pieces once, until golden and crisp. Drain well, and serve garnished with lemon and parsley.

HUMOUR

- As my husband waited, with several other men, to donate to the local blood bank, the attractive nurse who was routinely checking pulses finally grasped his wrist. After the usual timing silence, she muttered, "Well, you're certainly no credit to me."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

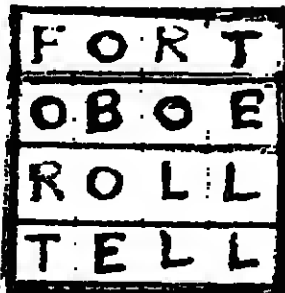
- A high-school freshman was telling her family about making biscuits in home economics. "Do they let you eat what you cook?" her mother asked.

"Let us?" she roared. "They make us."

CHECK YOUR I.Q.

- (A) Put your general knowledge to the test
1. What is the number that matches the number of letters in its name?
 2. Which country is "the roof of the world"?
 3. Is a salubrious climate hot, salty or healthy?
 4. The Swiss flag is the reverse of which other flag?
 5. What's the term used for "turning" in flight?

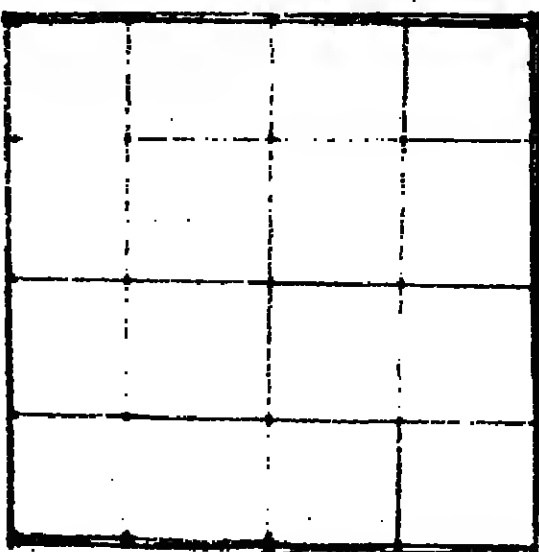
- (B) Arrange 16 letters into four-letter words which read the same across and down. (See example)



Here are the 16 letters for this puzzle and a clue to one of the answers — but we're not saying which one.

C C D D E E L N
N N N O O O S

CLUE: MIDDAY



JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 24

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 Da Beat's On

10:00 News In English

10:20 Faces And Places

10:50 Movie Of The Week — Falsely Accused

Starring: Lisa Hartman Black

A mother is in prison accused of poisoning her baby to death. A clever lawyer and a strong media coverage help to uncover the truth and prove that the mother was "falsely accused."

Friday, Feb. 25

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 Walter And Emily

Zak is having a problem with his best friend. His grandparents and father believe he needs the help of a psychiatrist.

10:00 News In English

10:20 G.P.

Kelly awaits the results of tests to know if she has a malignant tumor in her brain.

10:50 Scene Of The Crime

Put Them All Together, They Spell Mother

Saturday, Feb. 26

9:30 Family Matters

Bowl Me Over



Charlton Heston stars in the film A Thousand Heroes Saturday at 10:50

It seems that women are beating their male partners in every single bowling game, a fact that threatens the male ego.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Local Programme

10:50 Feature Film — A Thousand Heroes

Starring: Charlton Heston and James Coburn

Based on a true story: passengers on a domestic flight in the U.S. have a traumatic experience, when their plane crashes and catches fire. Hundreds of rescuers perform heroic deeds.

Sunday, Feb. 27

9:30 You Bet Your Life

More money prizes are given away to contestants on the Bill Coshy quiz

show.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Out Of The Past

Power Prestige

More explorations of the Maya civilisation in Honduras, with a special look at the kings who ruled the people there and the reason behind the supreme power they had over their subjects.

11:10 Island Son

Everyday People

Monday, Feb. 28

9:30 The Torkelsons

Say Uncle

Kirby and his uncle are guests of the Torkelsons; and both men have love on their mind.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Rescue

A dangerous operation is set to rescue four U.S. soldiers held hostage by the North Koreans. They were sent to save a U.S. submarine from falling in North Korean hands.

11:50 Sony

Great Expectations

Tuesday, March 1

9:30 The Respectful Family

In times of dearth, family members usually stick closer together. This is truly apply to Victoria and her sister Ruth.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cape Rebel

11:50 Night Our

Leon, We Hardly Knew You

Leon is now aged, and enjoys his new father and father... but only for a very short time.

Wednesday, March 2

9:30 Too Close For Comfort

A lot of sympathy goes round during this giving. Henry and family open their hearts and home to a vagabond... only to discover later something "stirring" about him.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equinox

The Real Jurassic Park

11:50 Flight Into Hell

Arab women artists' works reflect repression, anger and humour

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Behind the Arab veil, may be the face of an artist.

Full of dark, shocking images of war and repression, mixed with splashes of colour and humour, an exhibit of art by 70 Arab women from 15 countries opened last week at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

It's an exhibit designed to break Western stereotypes of Arab women.

Works range from colorful etchings of Arabic calligraphy and exotic oils to computer-generated images and silk-screened photographs — everything but the traditional rugs and tex-

tiles of the most familiar Arab art.

The repression and humour are mixed in one gallery whose walls are hung with agonised paintings of nude women bound at the ankles with their faces X-ed out. In the middle of the room stands a comical sculpted wood figure in a dress embroidered with body parts to make her, too, appear naked.

Curators said it is the first such broad exhibition of contemporary Arab art by women and features several artists who have never before displayed their work in the United States.

"Here for the first time, Arab women are presented as eloquent interpreters of the contemporary experience," said Salwa Mikdadi

Nashashibi, an Arab American who spent nearly five years collecting works for the exhibit which will run through May 15 and then move to Boston, Atlanta and Miami.

Ms. Nashashibi has established the International Council for Women in the Arts, which is cataloguing and promoting works of artists from the Mideast, Africa and Asia.

Among the most striking works are the series by Algerian painter Houria Niaty of buxom nudes, writing in bondage with faces obliterated under broad swaths of black paint.

An explanation says the nudes "convey Niaty's anger over the suffering of Algerians under French occupation as well as the con-

tinuing exploitation of women" by local and Islamic custom.

In contrast, at the exhibit opening, Lebanese artist Huguette Caland stood alongside her dressed nude, swearing that she has worn the nude gown to cultural events in Paris and Los Angeles. Its design includes breasts, nipples, naked thighs and pubic hair.

She said the embroiderer, 20 years ago in Beirut, was scandalised when, following her design, he realised what he was stitching into the expensive, hand-woven silk.

"I do not mean to be provocative," Ms. Caland, 62, insisted. "The only provocative thing is that they are traditional in form."

"Arab women are good at finding ways out, ways to express themselves, because they are repressed," said Ms. Caland.

Egyptian Liliane Karnouk, who lives in Vancouver, Canada, said her "black and green" depicts the environmental carnage of the Gulf War. It includes three blocks of canvases forming crosses as well as photographs Ms. Karnouk took during a wilderness retreat in northern Quebec.

"I have become totally obsessed with the rapport between political symbolism and nature," said the artist, who also teaches at the American University in Cairo.

Several of the women artists have lived outside the Arab World, mixing

Western and Islamic images and styles in their art.

Lebanese artist Rabii Sukkarieh, who lived and trained in the United States, includes in her "Sheherezade 101" a series of 101 square panels ranging from traditional fabrics to a rendition of Pepsi Cola's latest advertising slogan. "Uh Huh."

One panel includes crudely scrawled words in black: "I talk English... but all my dreams are still in Arabic," followed by obscenities in a different hand telling the writer to leave the country.

Princess Wijdan Ali, who is a well-known regional painter and art historian, said it is a Western misconception that Arab women

are too repressed to gain prominence in the art world.

"We don't have a problem of women artists being accepted," she said. "We have a problem of all artists being accepted." She said artists need more financial backing in the Arab World.

Curator Nashashibi said she tried to get Arab governments to help with the exhibit, but only Oman responded, with a personal contribution from its sultan.

Major sponsors include the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Arab Bank Plc, Egypt Air, Aramco, the National Association of Arab Americans, the Middle East Institute and the Middle East Policy Council.



Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali

New Indian romance novels are bringing love closer to home

By Vijay Joshi
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — For years, bashful Indian teenagers have secretly lived out their fantasies in the pages of romance novels imported from Britain.

But now their dreams are coming home.

A local publishing company just launched India's first series of English-language romances written by and about Indian women, selling out its January and February editions.

The books — with no sex and just one kiss in the final pages — are far less explicit than the English Mills and Boon romance novels in which passion is vivid and sometimes steamy.

But the new romances still challenge the conservative values of a country where most marriages are arranged by elders and many love-starved teens dare not hold hands in public.

Known among aficionados as "MBS," the British publishers' series has provided a daily fix to a generation of Indian women who lapped up the novels between classes, at beauty parlours or while commuting to work on buses.

"I had always been fascinated by the girl-meets-boy formula in MBS. So I thought it would be fun to write one with Indians as its hero and heroine," said Amrita Shah, the author of Sandstorm, the first home-grown romance.

Sandstorm was released in January and sold in book

shops, video rental shops, beauty parlours and cosmetic stores. Within days, all 10,000 copies of the first run were gone.

The New Delhi publisher, Rupa And Co., released another book in February and says it has enough manuscripts to sustain the novel-a-month schedule for years.

One book is being written by Shelly, a 17-year-old high school student who didn't want to use her full name, afraid her father won't approve.

"But I will have to tell him once my book is out," she said in an interview at her home while her father was at work.

Shelly has dozens of romances hidden under her mattress for bedtime consumption.

"I don't see myself as an MB heroine. But I expect my guy to be an MB hero. Tall, dark and handsome," said Shelly, without a hint of embarrassment.

Only 4 per cent, or 35 million of India's 830 million people, read English. Still, Rupa editors say there's a big market for English-language romances cultivated by Mills and Boon.

About 70,000 copies are sold monthly of Mills and Boon and lesser-known American romances, set in sun-swept Greek islands, the French Riviera or Alpine ski resorts.

As Rupa And Co. hoped, readers appear to be identifying with the Indian characters and locations.

In Sandstorm, a 22-year-



Bestselling Indian author Shobha De

old girl, Sheena Mehra, falls in love with "the arrogant and dangerously attractive Karan Khosla" in the deserts of Rajasthan, a popular tourist destination in India. The climax is outside the moonlit Taj Mahal.

If the plot sounds familiar, it is meant to be.

"We are taking our cues from the West in so many areas, so why not pulp? We are indianising Western products," said Shobha De, a bestselling Indian author of English-language fiction.

Mrs. De, a Bombay socialite, introduced explicit sex to modern Indian literature with her 1991 novel, Starry Nights. But her steamy escapades of film stars are far from the innocent love stories sought

by Rupa And Co.

Before beginning the series, Rupa did a survey that found most Indian women were embarrassed by explicit love scenes in the foreign romances.

"We want our novels to be acceptable to everyone in the family. The mother should not snatch the books away from the daughter," said Sunjay Shekhar, editor of Rupa Romances, as the series is called.

Kissing is all right, but only just.

In A Symphony Of Hearts, the February release, a 28-year-old filmmaker and her business tycoon sweetheart first kiss on the second-to-last page. Then they get married.

By Barbara Novovitch
Reuters

NEW YORK — Jean-Claude Ellena is one of a rare group of people who find a runny nose is good for business.

That's because Ellena is a "nose," a wizard of perfumery who can distinguish scents and create the melange of odours that become high-priced perfumes.

"Colds can be a blessing," Ellena explained to Reuters in a recent interview. "It depends on what sort. Humid colds are good. You can smell better, because the reception of odour is a chemical-electrical reaction. When the mucous membranes are wet, the electricity works better."

"You know how good things smell after the rain? Everybody notices it. It's because it's wet, because there's humidity in the air."

In his black, chrome and grey office and laboratory high above New York's Fifth Avenue, Ellena has created perfumes for Van Cleef and Arpels, Hermes, Pierre Cardin, Rochas, Armani, Balenciaga and Bulgari.

He composes scents like a musician writing music — noting the perfume extracts, what portion of teanote (an element he discovered that is "somewhere between dazleing and earl grey"), of cassia, of ambergris, musk, oil of civet, jasmine, orange and others.

Ellena said smells are stronger in a tropical area.

while in the desert, where it's dry and hot, there are virtually no smells. And at the North and South Poles, where the air is dry and frigid, there are no smells either.

When Ellena's nasal passages are stuffed up or he has a dry cold, he exits the lab and does his paper work.

At his offices, the air and atmosphere are circulated twice more than the norm, and special humidity controls have been built in.

"Odors can disturb me, so it's important that the environment is not too perfumed when I create," he said.

There are perhaps 200 "noses" in the world, the creators of perfumes in the world. Their power is great. German author Patrick Suskind says those "who control odours control the hearts of mankind."

Mr. Suskind, author of the international best-seller, Das Parfum, wrote: "Odor is the sister of breathing. It penetrates man at the same time as breath they cannot defend themselves from it if they want to live. And odour penetrates directly to the heart, and it decides categorically a leaning towards and a repulsion, disgust and desire, love and hate."

Ellena is French, and was born into the perfume business. His father, his brother and his uncle are all perfumers. When Ellena was growing up, there was no school to learn perfumery. He was apprenticed to a

perfumer and went through the five levels of hierarchy to become a master perfumer.

Now potential "noses" can study at the Institut Supérieur International Du Parfum, De La Cosmétique Et De L'Aromatique Alimentaire outside Paris in Versailles, where a perfumery museum, called the Osmothèque, is also located.

Perfumery, according to Ellena, is perhaps the most conservative adjunct to the fashion industry. "We are the last wheel of fashion, a very conservative industry."

Musing on why that should be, Ellena said that all people "have an intimate part of themselves that is conservative. Perfume is very intimate, it's tied to memories. We don't want memories that change too much. It's reassuring."

"If the perfume is too different, it shakes up our habits, it disturbs us."

With clothes, people can change their outward personalities, what they show to the world, transforming themselves three times in 10 minutes if they choose.

But with perfume, he said, "we wear it for a day, we can't change. Perfume stays on your skin, follows you around. Perfume follows fashion, but it is the tail of the comet."

The current tendencies in perfume, Ellena said, evoke purity, transparency, naturalness, the sea, the air.

"In fashion this exists since a long time — the spare looks of Calvin Klein

and the Japanese designers, the aspects of new age, the no-fat, no-cholesterol. Perfume is the final expression of that movement," he said.

Nowadays marketing directors determine what perfumes are created, said Ellena. Some of them are like the president of Van Cleef and Arpels, Philippe Clin, who asked Ellena to create a perfume pure, transparent, clear as a diamond... with the spirit and brilliance of a diamond.

"After that I worked, I went into the lab and put that in the form of an odour... It will appear on the market this summer," said Ellena.

Other marketing directors take a scent, test-market it and let the results decide. "This approach is terrible, it's not human," scoffed the nose.

Ellena predicts that the perfume industry's sales growth for the next decade and beyond will take place in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. "They know perfumes there. At the beginning of the century the aristocrats used a lot of perfume, so they are perfume-minded."

Unconsciously, everything is ready, it's only an economic problem," he said.

Only three per cent of the Japanese use perfume, said Ellena, but in America and in Europe perfume is used by 65 per cent of the population daily. Europe and America account for 80 per cent of the world's total production of perfumes, he said.

Polynesians preparing for their dance and music Olympics

By Michael Field
Agence France Presse

AUCKLAND — Across Auckland, which bills itself as the world's largest Polynesian city, music, dance, coconut palms and bodies in motion rings out through the late summer afternoon.

For nearly 10,000 teenage boys and girls, the time is ready for the biggest and most fiercely competitive gathering of Polynesian dance seen anywhere — the 19th annual Festival of Maori and Pacific Island Dance.

Held this year at Mount Albert Grammar School from March 17-19, the festival has come to be the definitive meeting for Polynesian dance, setting the standard for dances that will be seen across the islands of the South Pacific months later.

But although it is a lively event of colour and music — the latter provided by

guitars and a unique sound from split wood and big snare drums, along with big steel biscuit tins — the festival has yet to attract tourist interest.

Most of the 100,000 plus spectators are parents and family who keep the secret to themselves.

Auckland used to downplay its Maori, Tongan, Samoan, Cook Island, Niuean, Fijian and Tokelauan heritage but is now being overwhelmed by South Pacific culture, especially noticeable on the weekends when most of the city's parks are filled with Polynesians playing their unique brand of cricket.

Prior to the opening of the dance festival, the Pasifika '94 Festival will celebrate Polynesian weaving, carving, tattooing, food and music and, just south of here at Ngauruwhia, Maori war canoes will gather on the Waikato River for an annual regatta of the ancient boats.

But it is the dance festival

that gets the biggest crowds, when each school sends in its best dancers to present a carefully defined set of traditional dances.

The dancers are divided up by country — although most of the dancers are New Zealand born — and have to present their key dances in a strictly limited time period. They are marked for style, costumes and music.

For the veterans, the joy of the festival is in the rehearsals now underway and the tense preparations that go on just before the competition.

Flowers from atolls are flown in and gallons of specially-made coconut oil are rubbed in to the skin by dancers to make their bodies shine.

Old women instruct youngsters who have never been to their homelands in the making of traditional costumes and the finest feathers, and the weaving of pearls and shark and pig teeth into head pieces.

Auckland University ethnomusicologist Richard Moyle says the festival has become crucial to the development of Polynesian dance, and the resurgence of traditional styles which had begun to disappear in the face of tourist demand.

He points also to the strong empathy between performers and the audience in such dance gatherings. Each dance has a poem at its heart, he says, which will not be understood by outsiders who will only see the visual image.

"The extent of audience appreciation is, therefore, in direct proportion to the extent of cultural knowledge," he says.

But for the festival dancers, the competition is about identity.

A Tongan, Tumama Faumui, told New Zealand Geographic Magazine, that he summed up his performance simply: "Here's who I am. Here's where I come from. Here's where I'm going to."

By Alexander G. Higgins
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO — At 17, the Mandzuka twins turned down modeling offers from Western Europe in order to finish school. Two years later, they dodge shells and haul water just to survive.

Alma and Maja Mandzuka try to keep up appearances. Going about their business as though the siege did not exist is a popular ruse among Sarajevans, including aspiring models, for coping with it.

The way many people in the city still dress, especially young women, can make it hard for an outsider to realize how desperate their situation is. They play the age-old shadow game of appearance and reality.

Since all of their clothes date from before the war and a lipstick can cost \$60 on the black market, the twins rely on occasional gifts of cosmetics and their own ingenuity to put it all together.

One winter day, Alma wore a red roll-neck sweater, a black imitation-fur jacket and jeans. Maja was dressed in an olive paisley shirt over black leggings, with sunglasses holding her hair back. Alma wore lip-

Bosnian twins put modeling careers on hold

stick and eye makeup. Maja only eye liner.

About 15 of the girls' close friends have been killed. For the two blonde, blue-eyed teenagers, budding careers in modeling and television have given way to chores imposed by war.

"We had offers from Italy, France and Germany," Alma said. "We didn't accept them because we were very young. But we were very stupid."

Shells permitting, they continue their business and marketing studies at Sarajevo Economics University.

Evening study is by candlelight because their part of the city is usually without electricity. They walk the three miles (4.8 kilometres) to classes, carefully planning the route to avoid snipers, because the streetcar line between their neighbourhood and downtown Sarajevo has been knocked

out.

Alma and Maja even try to keep up a semblance of social life, meeting friends in cafes, but always get home before the 10 p.m. curfew.

Every day is dangerous. Three shells landed near their home recently, killing five people, three of them friends.

The twins have virtually no income. Their father, Slobodan, a 46-year-old Muslim Serb, is paid only a few coupons a month as an army lieutenant. Their mother, Jasmina, 45, is unemployed. Both parents worked in insurance before the war.

In winter, the sisters nearly always have colds and worry about the skimpy diet they share with other Sarajevans. Breakfast is canned beef on relief supplies, if they have it, or just bread and tea.

"Our health is damaged," Maja said. "We are

ill because, for two years, we have been living on that beef."

"Fruit? Fruit is a dream," Alma said. She fears a lack of milk and other foods is damaging their teeth and hair.

Only once every two weeks do they shampoo their shoulder-length hair. They need a total of 13 gallons (49 liters) of water, which means at least two dangerous trips to the pump.

Their friends tell them they have lost weight, but they have no scale to weigh themselves.

The sisters are 170 centimetres (5-foot-6) — and strikingly similar, but not identical. They worked as a team until the Bosnian war began in April 1992.

Resuming their careers is still a hope, and they are searching for a way to get to Western Europe.

Life in Sarajevo breeds suspicion, however, and Alma said the twins worry that someone offering work abroad might really be trying to lure them into "some dirty job."

"We don't trust anybody," Alma said, but Maja added: "In Sarajevo, every day we die slowly."

Most Middle Eastern students in U.S. risk contracting HIV

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Forty per cent of the Middle Eastern students in American universities are running the risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), leading to AIDS, according to a research study done by a Jordanian doctor in public health.

According to Dr. Bader Harahsheh, lack of HIV/AIDS education in the Middle East, compounded by religious and cultural beliefs, makes the students from this area prone to becoming victims of the disease and very poorly equipped to protect themselves against it.

Dr. Harahsheh was born in Umm Qantara, Jerash. He graduated from Yarmouk University in public administration in 1987/88, Master in planning, public policy and management 1990, and Ph.D. in public health (1992) both from University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A. Since graduation he has been working with the State Health Department for the State of Oregon, and also teaching at the Department of Public Health Education at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

In an effort to at least study the behavioural patterns of the students from the Middle East vis-a-vis the disease and sound the alarm for future students, Dr. Harahsheh has taken a research sample of 200 young people attending universities in the northwest of the United States and who had enrolled during the spring term of 1992.

The result of the research showed that Middle Eastern students have a low level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, they do not fully value the severity of the disease, do not practise safe sex and do not believe in the effectiveness of the methods of protection.

Because of the misconception regarding the spread of the disease (the prevalent belief is that AIDS is a homosexual disease and as such is a punishment from God), Dr. Harahsheh says the Middle Eastern people perceive it as a Western plague, making them not susceptible to get infected and not to use protection.

Among the findings of the research is the fact that while the students are sexually active (defeating the assumption that their culture, belief, religion and norms make them not practise sex before marriage) their using protection is very

low due to their culture where no sex education is provided in schools and where it is considered shameful to discuss sexuality and related subjects.

Consequently, of the sample, 30 per cent reported to have never used protection, which subjects this group to high risk of contracting the AIDS virus. Considering that two in 10,000 American students use protection (making it a mere .002 per cent), the percentage for Middle Eastern students is very high, making them more susceptible to infection.

The Middle Eastern students believe that shaking hands with HIV positive people, mosquito bites, sharing the same environment, clothing, swimming pools, bathrooms and hugging are potential risk factors of contracting the virus, when in fact they are not.

Dr. Harahsheh recommends therefore that education about the disease be done in a collaborative effort in the area. The major factor that needs to be addressed, he says, is the future of the students who once graduate return home, marry and have children.

The importance of sex education in preventing the contracting of AIDS virus is widely recognised; therefore,

ministries of education and health in the Middle East need to emphasise the need for the students to know about the disease, especially that it is spreading fast, according to Dr. Harahsheh.

As the subject is a sensitive one, Dr. Harahsheh suggests that education be designed in a way that is culturally and linguistically acceptable, and be done fast as "one dirham of prevention is better than a tonne of treatment."

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the number of cases of HIV infected people has reached 400,000 in 162 countries. By the year 2,000, the organisation estimates that the number of people to become infected with HIV worldwide will reach 40 million, of which 30 million will be among adults and 90 per cent of them in developing countries.

A 1991 WHO report says about 70 per cent of the global infections are estimated to have been spread through heterosexual intercourse. This should be reason enough to arm our students with sufficient knowledge to avoid contracting this scary disease.

Nonsmoking cancer rates up, environmental causes suspected

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — White men born during the middle of the baby boom in the United States are three times as likely to get cancers unrelated to smoking as their grandfathers were, a study says.

And white women born during the same years — 1948 through 1957 are 30 per cent more likely to develop cancers unrelated to smoking than were their grandmothers, the researchers reported in the latest issue of the journal of the American Medical Association.

During a 15-year period ending in 1987, death rates from heart disease dropped 42 per cent in people up to age 55 and 33 per cent among 55- to 84-year-olds, the study found.

But the incidence of cancer is up among all ages, and researchers speculated

that environmental exposure to cancer-causing substances other than cigarettes may be partly to blame.

The study was led by Devra Lee Davis, a senior adviser to the assistant health secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Many people in the cancer world have believed it was only smoking we had to pay attention to," Dr. Davis said Tuesday by telephone from Washington.

Smoking-related cancers are up 15 per cent in the male baby boomers compared with their grandfathers, the study found. For women baby boomers, smoking-related malignancies are 500 per cent higher than for their grandmothers.

Researchers who studied 837,000 cancer cases in Sweden last year reported similar trends there, Dr. Davis said.

One clue to what is behind them may lie with cancer rates among farmers, as revealed by more than 20 separate studies in eight different countries, Dr. Davis said.

"The same types of tumours that farmers are dying of also are increasing in men of the baby boom generation," Dr. Davis said, adding that better diagnostic procedures might explain some cases, but not all of them.

Farmers are more vigorous and smoke less than most people, and suffer less heart disease and lung cancer, she said. But farmers die more often of prostate cancer, brain cancer, bone cancer and skin cancer and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, she said. That could be linked to their chronic contact with engine exhausts, solvents, animal viruses, sunlight and fuels, she said.

The general population may have faced increased

exposures to the same substances in recent generations, increasing their cancer rates, she said.

An outside researcher expressed caution about the findings.

"I'm a bit hesitant to reach those kinds of conclusions, at least very strongly," said Dr. Clark W. Heath, vice president for epidemiology and statistics with the American Cancer Society.

"It's not very easy to compare trends in cancer mortality from one era to another when the population age structure has changed, and smoking patterns have changed," he said.

A 10 per cent sample of the population across nine regions of the country was studied. The study involved only whites because statistics on other races were not complete enough to be reliable, Dr. Davis said.

New drug appears to limit brain damage in strokes

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An experimental medicine that mimics the illicit drug PCP appears to reduce the irreversible brain damage resulting from strokes, raising the possibility of an effective treatment, researchers report.

The medicine, called Selfotel, shows promise of halting a disastrous chemical chain reaction in the brain that kills cells after a stroke chokes off the blood supply.

"I think this drug, or one like it, will ultimately be proven to be effective," said Dr. James C. Grotta of the University of Texas Medical School in Houston.

However, the medicine carries one major side effect: Patients temporarily suffer hallucinations like those triggered by PCP, or angel dust, which affects the brain in a similar way.

"It's sort of like a bad trip," said Dr. David G. Sherman of the University of Texas at San Antonio, who wasn't involved in the study. However, he said this was not necessarily a serious enough drawback to hinder its use.

Strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States. They strike about 500,000 people annually and kill about one-third. Often the survivors are left paralyzed.

Currently, there is little doctors can offer. No approved treatments exist that can stop a stroke or head off the death of brain cells that follows it. However, at least a dozen major studies are under way to test medicines designed to do just this.

Most strokes studies are

looking at the possibility of administering clot-dissolving drugs, such as Streptokinase, that are already a mainstay of heart attack therapy.

However, Selfotel is the first drug to show promise in another approach — stopping the body's self-destructive response after that clot disrupts the brain's oxygen supply.

Much of the damage in a stroke occurs when dying cells give off a cascade of chemicals that in turn kill other nearby healthy cells. One of these chemicals is a brain messenger called glutamate. It induces other nerve-cells to absorb too much calcium, which kills them.

Selfotel is a so-called glutamate antagonist. It blocks healthy cells from taking up glutamate, short-circuiting the damage process.

The latest study, directed by Dr. Grotta, was financed by Ciba-Geigy Corp., which makes the medicine. It was presented at a stroke conference sponsored by the American Heart Association.

Dr. Grotta said two similar medicines are also being studied. They are Cerestat, made by Cambridge Neuroscience, and Dextrorphan, a common cough medicine ingredient, made by Hoffman-Laroche Inc.

Dr. Grotta's study, involving 32 patients, was intended mainly to judge the drug's safety. Much larger studies will be needed to prove its effectiveness.

However, Dr. Grotta said that even this small study suggested that the

medicine may work. "Some showed dramatic recovery, in my opinion," after taking the medicine, he said.

Doctors administered a test that judges stroke patients' ability to take care of themselves. A score of 70 means people can live independently. Those getting Selfotel had average scores of 95, while those getting inactive placebos scored 43.

On another measure, called the National Institute for Health (NIH) stroke scale, patients getting the drug had improved an average of 71 per cent about three months after their strokes, compared with a 36

per cent recovery in the untreated comparison group.

Although Selfotel is chemically unrelated to PCP, both block the brain's consumption of glutamate. Those getting Selfotel experienced such PCP-like effects as hallucinations, confusion, paranoia and delirium.

Dr. Grotta said these symptoms usually went away after a couple of days, and they could be reasonably controlled by reassuring patients and giving them sedatives. He said there was no evidence of lasting problems caused by the medicine.

Signs of shy childhood 'can be detected in crib'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Researchers say they can tell whether infants are likely to become shy or timid children by measuring their brain activity, skin temperature and reaction to strange objects.

In papers presented at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, researchers said that timid or outgoing temperaments can be measured in babies as young as 4 months old.

These characteristics can stay with the child into the school years, the researchers said. But they are not locked in for life.

"Even though there is an inherited component, there is change. The environment always has an effect," said Jerome Kagan of Harvard University. "Just because you are born with a temperamental bias, that is just the first chapter of a 20-chapter

book in which a lot happens."

In studies of 700 children, Dr. Kagan said, researchers found that 20 per cent of the babies were highly aroused by simple stimuli, while 30 to 35 per cent "laid-back babies" were difficult to excite.

The rest of the babies measured between the two extremes, he said.

Later in childhood, Dr. Kagan said, about two-thirds of the easily aroused babies became shy or timid children, while about two-thirds of the more relaxed infants became outgoing and sociable.

The tests included filming the reactions of the infants to moving mobiles, placed over the cribs, to recorded voices, and to being touched with alcohol-doused swabs.

Researchers also measured skin temperature on the infants' hands and forehead.

Winter deaths tied to clotting factors — study

LONDON (AP) — More elderly people die of heart disease and stroke in the winter, possibly due to blood changes set off by infections, according to a British study.

Investigators speculate the downward chain of events begins with a mild respiratory infection. The illness promotes the production of immune substances, which in turn cause an increase in the levels of two clotting factors produced by the body, Fibrinogen and Factor VII.

These clotting substances increase the risk of fatal heart disease or stroke.

"Our theory is that perhaps if we can reduce winter infections we can reduce some of the excess heart disease mortality," said Dr. Kay-Tee Khaw, one of the researchers at Cambridge University.

The findings were published in the latest issue of the *Lancet*, a medical journal. Investigators studied 96 men and women between the ages of 65 and 74, from January 1991 to February 1992. Every two months,

they measured levels of Fibrinogen and Factor VII. They also measured other immune system substances and asked volunteers about cold and flu symptoms.

They found that Fibrinogen levels were about 5 per cent higher in the winter than other seasons. Factor VII increased by 6 per cent in the winter compared to the summer.

These increases were much higher than daily fluctuations of these blood substances and are associated with an increased risk of heart disease, said Dr. Khaw.

Previously, other researchers have linked blood clotting factors to heart disease. This study goes further by tying the increase in these chemicals to respiratory ailments.

Dr. Douglas Chamberlain, past president of the British Cardiac Society, said the findings are "plausible but I do not believe it can account for all the factors (that increase cardiac deaths in the winter). Cold itself can exert influences independent of the clotting system."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

COLORFUL PLACES
By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- 1 Schedule abbr.
- 2 Opera soloist
- 3 Paperback
- 4 Metro or
- 5 Magnifying
- 6 Kind of eagle
- 7 Go-between
- 8 Under the — in
- 9 Character actor
- 10 Peter
- 11 Smirk, grin
- 12 Caper, cavern
- 13 Miami stadium
- 14 Damages
- 15 Ungrateful
- 16 jolt (canon term)
- 17 Scored horse
- 18 Chaney of old
- 19 Lems
- 20 At or E.T.
- 21 Huddle
- 22 Florida city

DOWN

- 1 Recipe
- 2 Annie Dunes
- 3 Astronaut
- 4 Ruckus
- 5 Stravinsky or
- 6 Skorsky
- 7 Annual doctors
- 8 Rocky Adam
- 9 Dull
- 10 Toward the north
- 11 Can's river
- 12 Case
- 13 One delicious in
- 14 Spig
- 15 Georgia
- 16 A Gurney
- 17 Leave an aircraft
- 18 Laboring mightily
- 19 Fort
- 20 Brist
- 21 Moosegows
- 22 Sagas

Diagramless 17 x 17. By Craig Schultz

ACROSS

- 1 Rastless
- 2 Complete
- 3 Tie —
- 4 Show
- 5 Sn thoughtfully
- 6 One-to-be
- 7 Together
- 8 Bird
- 9 Also
- 10 Bird
- 11 Identified
- 12 Classroom
- 13 Furniture
- 14 At the upper end

DOWN

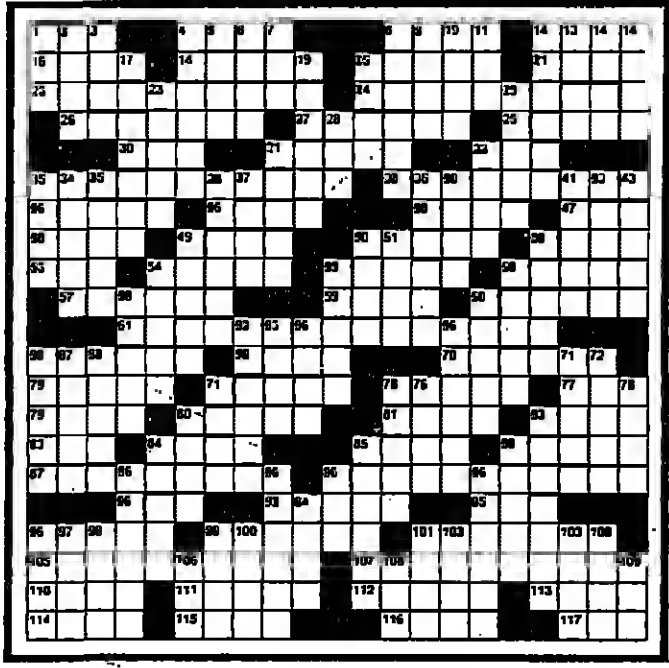
- 1 Saving s account
- 2 Letters
- 3 Ties —
- 4 Brave person
- 5 Craving
- 6 Govt. org.
- 7 Appar
- 8 Impressively
- 9 Address Anderson
- 10 Classroom
- 11 Furniture
- 12 At the upper end

ACROSS

- 36 African waterfront
- 40 Places of bliss
- 45 Verbal
- 46 Inlets
- 47 Salt — name
- 48 Under the — in
- 49 Kilt of a yest
- 50 Amphitheatrum
- 51 Die
- 52 Decree
- 53 Ungrateful
- 54 Groom
- 55 Goddesses of the
- 56 Outburst
- 57 — Gail's
- 58 Touched ground
- 59 Calculates

DOWN

- 26 City in Serbia
- 27 On — (perfective)
- 32 WWII invasion
- 33 Mackerel
- 34 Aromas
- 35 Adjust
- 36 Slurry
- 37 Rude person
- 38 Gaudy
- 39 Quake
- 40 Mental
- 41 Sudden
- 42 Movement
- 43 Hears Fr
- 44 Tami
- 45 Single-edged
- 46 Ireland
- 47 Accidentally
- 48 Restless stroke
- 49 Lucid
- 50 Described
- 51 Harry and Esel



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Insurance salesperson sells little old lady accident policy with fine print: only pays when killed by a drunk buffalo.
2. Polliwog to frog: An amphibian life from below the water.
3. Agility ability is thought to be an essential utility in athletic contests.
4. Why did they do away with all those old Edelets?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. QPUUQT OPYQ KTRYRTM HYEALM
OYEALM RESTY OYESTY HL IEAY ALPUQ
KIT DEALM H RESTUTM DEAY-QTHD
RQUESTY.

—By Rita Salvato

2. GTH BLICKCFGE, BOXACHLFEZ EXAXO
FLYYXFFPLK, PHLING XRYN HGNXO.
PCEKKEZ, HEX THE HEX.

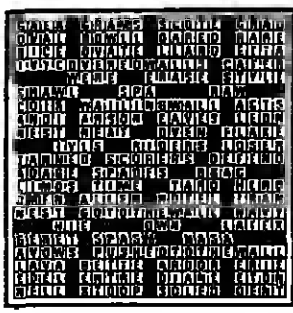
—By Ed Huddleston

3. UPHIK ZEPH ENH KCKY LGKY UR HIK BEH
LZW WUGE ZLPEP IKY CLUNK?

—By Duane H. McGary

4. PERILS AND ANNIRLQR NA ANNIQUOR ES
UPP OLRLDILO RIDLLIR.

—By Frank N. Stein



SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

The one true Bishop of Durham

Few weeks ago, a curious press conference was held, at which there was only one question asked, in many different ways and voices: "Promise you will never be another Bishop of Durham". The victim of this treatment will, in fact, become Bishop of Durham in July. But he will not be just another bishop. He won't be the Bishop of Durham — the bishop who doesn't believe.

That post will not be filled again in our lifetime. It was created by David Jenkins, and nobody else could really follow his act.

What made him special in the role was his sincerity. Quite what he meant was almost always in doubt, but his passion could fill a cathedral. He talks the way he believes God acts: in a continuous powerful stream of ambiguity. When his meaning was clear, it was almost always perfectly orthodox; or if not orthodox, common-sense in academic theology normally goes unnoticed in the wider world. Dr. Jenkins's great discovery was that they had the power to shock agnostics even more than they shocked Christians.

The discovery was made in 1984 while he was still professor of theology at Leeds, but already named as the next Bishop of Durham. He told Philip Whitehead, a former Labour MP reduced to presenting religious television, that he doubted God would have arranged a Virgin Birth, or allowed Jesus to walk on the water. He also allowed that people who did not consider Jesus to be more than a divinely inspired human could consider themselves Christians.

The programme, *Credo*, followed this up with commendable speed and vigour. It arranged for every bishop to be asked whether or not they agreed with him. Nowadays, no bishop would dream of answering such a question openly. But about half of them then gave *Credo* replies, which suggested that they agreed with him. They probably did.

At once, Dr. Jenkins became a symbol of everything modern and liberal in the Church of England. Some

12,000 people signed a petition against his consecration. The Archbishop of York, John Habgood, who had been his predecessor at Durham, grasped the symbolic importance of the battle at once, and determined that Dr. Jenkins must be consecrated.

On July 6, 1984, he was consecrated in York Minster. Two protesters shouting about blasphemy had to be thrown out in the course of the service. The remaining congregation of 2,000 shouted in his favour. Two nights later, the Minister, one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world and a relic of a long-lost age of faith, was burned by fire following a lightning strike.

The bishop had become a star in the west. The experience did nothing to discourage him. After all, belief in a God who would burn down a cathedral to punish apostasy, yet fail to do anything about the country's more pressing ills, was something he had fought all his professional life, both as an academic theologian and as a bureaucrat in the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Two months later, he consented to a recording in the library at Auckland Castle of a discussion about his beliefs. "To believe in a Christian way, you don't necessarily have to have a belief that Jesus was born from literally a virgin mother, nor a precise belief that the risen Jesus had a literally physical body," he said; and when this was attacked, he responded with a phrase that would continue to dog him: "The Resurrection is real. That's the point. All I said was 'literally physical'." I was very careful in the use of language. After all, a conjuring trick with bones proves only that some-bones is very clever at a conjuring trick with bones."

This was to call down lightning on his own head. From that moment, he was the Bishop who had called the Resurrection a conjuring trick with bones; or, in the

more cautious press, the Bishop who had compared the Resurrection to a conjuring trick with bones. Two fellow bishops called for his resignation. Conservative politicians queued to denounce him, though none, outdressed in pompous absurdity Lord Hailsham, who said: "I much prefer the word of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, because they were there, and David Jenkins wasn't."

No first-year theology student believes either that the Evangelists were eyewitnesses to the events they describe, or that they wrote before St Paul, whose first letter to the Corinthians Dr. Jenkins had been trying to paraphrase. But little knowledge is demanded of the prominent theologians in the Conservative Party.

The evangelical backlash against him came to a head at the General Synod in the summer of 1986. His opponents had prepared long and carefully. They had forced the House of Bishops to produce a report on the legitimate boundaries of belief, and hoped to ambush him in the debate on this report. He routed them. His speech was a tour de force of passionate argument, studded with quotable insult and condescension. "I realise it is stupid and foolish of me to attempt mystical theology in a debate in Synod," he said. The view of miracles held by his opponents was "implying, if not portraying, a God who is at best a cultic idol and at worst the very devil". But it left listeners convinced that they had overheard a humble man wrestling with his God.

From that moment, his position was secure, and he was able to perfect the role of Bishop of Durham. He had few main themes. He loathed the Conservative Party. Much of his life had been spent as a don at Queen's College, Oxford, and he fully shared the sentiments which led that university to refuse Margaret Thatcher an honorary degree. He worried about the

poor, about ecology, and about the wretched of the earth. He remained in almost all respects a don, at a time when the Church of England's bench of bishops provided a far more agreeable retreat for dons than did the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge through which more than half of them had passed.

His manner is that of a theology don addressing his first-year students. If their ideas are not up to scratch, he will tell them, unforgettably. Some will dislike the treatment and leave. So much the worse for them, one hears him snoring.

There is a ruthlessness about this attitude that seems un-Anglican. But it exposes the real Anglican difficulties about truth and authority that Dr. Jenkins's career has highlighted. The customary appeal of Anglicans has been to Tradition, Scripture and Reason — if not in that order. But the modern Church of England is in some danger of substituting for reason mere reasonableness.

It may seem that the liberal Anglican has accepted the truths of science. But it is arguable that traditionalists have a more scientific model of truth: they accept dogma as data — something given — and then try to find theories that fit their experience around it. The liberals, on the other hand, tend to see dogma, or theology, as a set of theories, which must be judged against experience and reasonable common sense.

This approach is very humanising, but there is no guarantee that the truth, when found, would be agreeable to a majority in General Synod. The atheist Lewis Wolpert once wrote a book called *The Unnatural Nature of Science*, in which he argued that all the power of modern Western science derives from its rigorous eschewal of common sense.

Newton's laws of motion, for example, run exactly counter to the way things seem to work. This approach is very humanising, but there is no guarantee that the truth, when found, would be agreeable to a majority in General Synod. The atheist Lewis Wolpert once wrote a book called *The Unnatural Nature of Science*, in which he argued that all the power of modern Western science derives from its rigorous eschewal of common sense.



There is a similar book to be written called *The Unnatural Nature of Theology*. David Jenkins might well be the man to write it. But it would have to explain the fact that common sense, though it may be utterly wrong about why or how things happen, is usually right

about what does in fact happen. That is why it lasts. The common-sense explanation of an apple falling to the earth may be quite wrong. But it does tell you that an apple, dropped, will fall.

The popular belief that Jesus was born to a virgin in a manger and then adored by

shepherds and wise men may also be quite wrong. But it does tell believers that God so loved the world that he gave his only son for it. By knocking down the common-sense view, because he thinks it an inadequate expression of the truth, Dr. Jenkins appears to be denying the

truth that it conceals.

Both the scientist and the theologian have good reasons for attacking common sense. But in the case of a bishop, such attacks are not merely rash, but pointless. Dr. Jenkins is hardly alone among Anglican bishops in seeing common sense as a hydra-headed monster that must be slain 10,000 times a day.

Dr. Jenkins's arguments about miracles do not start with the assumption that they are impossible. God can, by definition. A miracle is something God does in order to reveal Himself. It is not enough that it should be inexplicable; it should also express the inexpressible love and purposes of God. But if it is to do this, divine action must be consonant with the definitive expression of God's nature: it must be Christlike.

This argument can then be used to sift the Bible and decide which improbable stories are truth and which are credulity or wish-fulfilment. The miraculous healings remain true and potent expressions of God's purpose, but genocide, no matter how highly commended in the Old Testament, is a historical accident. The Resurrection is true, even if we cannot define the nature of the resurrected body, any more than St Paul could do; but the apocalyptic visions of hell in the Book of Revelation are no more than "pathological", to use the bishop's phrase.

This method is not unique to Dr. Jenkins. It is absolutely bang in the mainstream of modern Christianity. But the brought it into the mainstream of national consciousness as well. Though, as a rationalist, he managed more successfully than any of his traditionalist opponents to assert that there was a mystery at the heart of faith.

In July he will retire. He wants to write a book about the failure of British institutions. No passer-by would imagine that this small, devout, bustling don, retired quietly near Oxford with his wife of 35 years, had once been The Bishop of Durham.

The Independent

House session cut short

(Continued from page 1)

argued that Mr. Dughmi's reaction was unnecessary as other deputies joined the shouting match.

During the session, the House referred to a special committee that Mr. Masri would form a speech by Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim on the policies of his ministry.

Mr. Ibrahim made his speech in response to a demand by 31 deputies for a "general discussion" of the ministry's policies.

In the speech, Mr. Ibrahim gave a detailed description of the ministry's functions and responsibilities, emphasising the government's concern for the safety of food and the stability of prices.

He said the government's policy was to maintain the stability of the prices of basic goods and ensure that government subsidies reached the people who needed them.

The minister explained the tests the ministry conducts to ensure the safety of food, assuring the deputies that items unfit for consumption would not be allowed into the market.

He also said that international companies have been employed by the ministry to ensure the safety of food ex-

ports to Jordan before they leave the exporting countries.

The House will discuss the minister's speech after the special committee makes its recommendations on it. The discussion was requested after the Ministry of Supply came under fire from deputies during a debate of the health and food situation in the Kingdom following Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas' charges that a good quantity of unsafe food reaches the market.

The National Action Front withdrew a request to hold a general discussion of employment procedures at the public sector in order to draft a new law on public-sector hiring.

The withdrawal of the request came after Deputy Dughmi argued that the law gives the Cabinet the right to organise this issue and the request was thus unconstitutional.

Wednesday's session was the second one this week that ended abruptly after disputes developed among lawmakers.

Last Sunday's session was called off by Deputy Speaker Abdul Razaq Tubeishat after deputies went into a heated verbal exchange over an article in a draft law on tenancy and landlords.

U.S. demands Russian action

(Continued from page 1)

But Interfax news agency quoted a senior Russian diplomat as expressing surprise that the Americans had dragged the affair into the open.

It's quite clear that the partnership which has been established between Moscow and Washington doesn't mean reticence from gathering specific information. Our agents work in the United States and the Americans work in Russia, and that's normal," the diplomat said.

He described the Americans as prone to over-emotion, and said Russia would be equally capable, if it wanted, to expose American diplomats and Russians working here for the CIA.

"But we don't do this, and nor, until recently, did the Americans. We don't understand why they had to cast a shadow on relations with Rus-

sia." The official Itar-Tass news agency argued the scandal should not be allowed to spill into politics, saying Western countries were spying on Russia as actively as during the cold war.

"It would be inappropriate to blow this story into a political scandal," Tass said. "After all, intelligence, even in a changing world, remains intelligence, with its own specific methods and interests."

"Incidentally, the leadership of the United States and several other Western countries have stated more than once that they are not about to scale down their intelligence-gathering operations regarding Russia."

Retired KGB General Oleg Kalugin commented that spying was a fact of life and the scandal should not be over-dramatised.

PLO sees deal in 3 weeks

(Continued from page 1)

on economic matters. Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat, who left for the Paris economic talks on Wednesday, threatened on Tuesday to close off the Israeli market to the future Palestinian autonomy because of differences over trade policy.

Mr. Peres played down the differences but said he believed the Palestinians would not be wise to insist on separate currency and customs policy.

"I think that is a mistake ... today rather than building economies of national flags. Free market economies are being built because it is impossible to feed children flags for breakfast," he said.

An Israeli decision to bar trade with the self-governing authority would hurt Palestinians who would lose a lucrative market for their goods and services.

Israel says it fears without a customs union, cheap goods from third countries would reach Israel via the autonomous areas.

Israel's government opposes establishment of a Palestinian

state and PLO insistence on symbols of statehood has proven a sticking point in autonomy negotiations.

Mr. Peres said the talks in Cairo were progressing nicely. "If that pace continues there is a reasonable chance that within a few weeks the negotiations will end ... but it is impossible at the moment to give an exact date because in negotiations there are always surprises," he said.

Mr. Peres denied Israeli media reports that Israel had told Mr. Arafat that troops would have completed the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by mid-May.

Chief of Staff General Ehud Barak said Tuesday that the army was ready for a "speedy" withdrawal once an overall agreement is sealed.

His statement came after Israel Radio reported that the government had ordered the army to complete the withdrawal within two weeks of an overall accord.

The army has begun to redeploy in recent weeks, removing tents and equipment from some of the dozens of military posts scattered across Gaza.

Tension high in Yemen

(Continued from page 1)

turned to its base in the eastern Hadramaut province.

Party officials said President Saleh ordered Defence Minister Haiman Oassem Taher to have all southern military units return to their barracks.

Mr. Taher is a southerner based in Aden. Mr. Saleh contended that the defence minister had no right to authorise the move of military units from one region to another, the party officials said.

Visits by Mr. Beidh and his officials to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states since the pact's signing have angered the

leadership in the north. Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassandawh told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassah that the trips were taken without authorisation and indicate "a trend for undeclared secession."

Mr. Saleh and some Arab diplomats have suggested that Saudi Arabia is unhappy with the democratic form of government adopted in Yemen after the merger and may be encouraging the south to secede.

Aviation sources said flights between Aden and Sanaa have stopped.

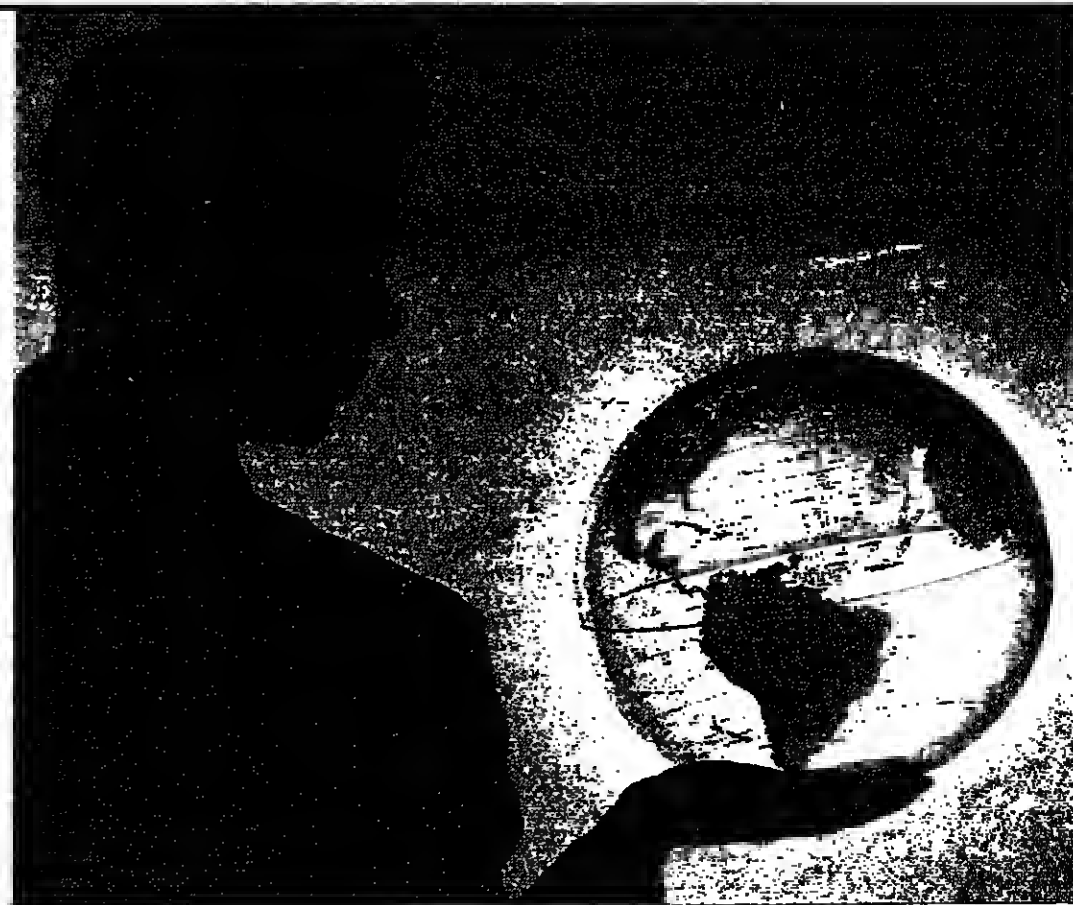
Summit call adds momentum

(Continued from page 1)

came from a front line between Muslims and Serbs, U.N. officials said.

Gen. Rose, the U.N. commander for Bosnia, said in a statement read by his spokesman Wednesday: "although the aircraft were not used in the final event it should be

made clear to avoid any future misunderstanding or incident that when UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) convoys or personnel are engaged by any armed element they will be given the authority to engage targets. This may include the use of air."



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Russia faces tough G-7 talks as chaos rules economy

MOSCOW (R) — Russia, its rudderless economy heading for the rocks amid delays in decision-making, will have trouble convincing the world's rich nations this weekend that it is committed to reforms, Western economists said Wednesday.

The Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations, meeting near Frankfurt Saturday, will seek pledges from Moscow that it intends to fight inflation and soaring public deficits.

No new money is expected to come out of the G-7 meeting, where Russia will be represented by Acting Finance Minister Sergei Dubinin, Economics Minister Alexander Shokhin and Central Bank Governor Viktor Gerashchenko.

The G-7 — the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Japan — will want to hear the new government's view of economic reform and in particular its plans for fighting inflation and controlling budget deficits.

But Western economists say Russia will have little to say simply because the government itself remains undecided on key policy issues starting with this year's budget.

"Russia will want to avoid creating a sense of crisis at the G-7 meeting. But at home, things seem very uncertain and fragile," said a senior Western economist.

"The state of confusion in the economy is very worrying," said another economist. "The Russians are unable to agree among themselves on

economic policy. I doubt very much there's a collective view within the government on how to deal with G-7."

Conservative central bank boss Gerashchenko was dismissive of what the West could do to help bring Russia out of crisis at a news conference in Vienna Tuesday. "Western aid is a big bubble — we need to rely on private investors."

More than two months after the elections, the government is yet to come up with a clear-cut policy statement on how it intends to tackle economic woes.

A crucial cabinet meeting to discuss the 1994 budget set for Friday has been delayed for the third time apparently because Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is suffering from a cold.

Economists close to the government, however, say the real reason is political. "The simply reason behind the delay in the budget meeting is because the government has not agreed on a budget," said one senior economist.

Senior Western economists say the government does not believe its own figures on income and spending and ministers have no idea how to tackle the problem of inter-enterprise debt.

Bankers say the 1994 budget deficit will top 100 trillion rubles (\$63 billion) on government plans to issue trillions of rubles in credits to farmers and a monetary union with Belarus which economists say will cost Moscow \$1.5 billion a year.

I.G. Metall plans targeted strikes

FRANKFURT (R) — Strikes in German manufacturing industry over pay and benefits now seem inevitable but targets would be chosen carefully with a view to preserving jobs, the powerful I.G. Metall union said Tuesday.

The union had said Monday it would hold a strike ballot in the north German state of Lower Saxony, a relatively small area with just 100,000 members, in a move it said aimed at hurting employers without crippling vulnerable groups.

Voting would take place from March 1 to 3 and a strike could begin on March 7. A further vote in the northern coastal region was set for March 17 and strikes could start there on March 21.

Walter Riester, deputy chairman of I.G. Metall, told German television that the union was interested in "limiting

the wage conflict and creating a new chance for a negotiated solution."

He said the union was interested in resuming talks to find a compromise with employers but added he believed a strike was unavoidable. There was "no spark" of willingness to negotiate on the part of the employers, he said.

Separately, the union's president, Klaus Zwickel, said the labour group intended to limit damage from the planned strikes by concentrating the industrial action on firms which were manufacturing end-products.

Mr. Zwickel said in a statement: "The I.G. Metall is tightening the screw but will not be forced into a large conflict."

He added: "The meaning and the purpose of this strike plan is to raise economic pressure on metal employers but at

the same time cause no economic and social pain in other wage regions through effects of lockouts."

The union, which has 3.2 million members in west Germany, is seeking higher wages and job guarantees. It is also rejecting management calls for cuts in holiday entitlement and benefits.

I.G. Metall Monday took a less aggressive tone than had been widely expected by setting the first strike action in Lower Saxony and avoiding more important industrial areas which boast firm reputations for militancy.

Juergen Peters, the union's top official in Lower Saxony, said Tuesday he believed his state had been selected because it was the home of Volkswagen A.G., which agreed to move to a four-day week from early this year. V.W. negotiates its pay

deals separately from the main round of engineering negotiations and would not be directly affected by any strikes in Lower Saxony.

The V.W. deal — comprising a 20 per cent cut in working hours. But only a 10 per cent cut in wages, against a trade-off job security — was acclaimed by the union as a sound solution to the current problems of joblessness and high costs. The union has made clear it is seeking similar elements in a deal for the sector as a whole.

"The I.G. Metall is prepared for compromise to secure jobs and reduce costs," Mr. Zwickel said. "The I.G. Metall wants to support the expected economic upswing." But it would stick to its strike plan as long as employers insisted on wage cuts and longer working hours, he said.

Ramos scraps oil levy, rolls back fuel prices

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos yielded to intense public pressure Wednesday and abolished an unpopular oil levy that triggered fuel price rises and widespread street protests.

Speaking on television, Mr. Ramos said the decision would mean delays in vital projects that could have created 100,000 jobs and possible cancellation of other development.

"Progress and development have a cost to be paid. When the family budget for business is reduced, the business suffers before fresh funds come in to replenish. And so it is with our national development," Mr. Ramos said.

Despite the elation, labour activists said they were not satisfied and pledged to go ahead with protests on Friday. In place of the levy, officials

and legislators have drawn up tax bills mainly aimed at hitting the rich and devised cost-cutting measures to raise alternative funds.

Mr. Ramos imposed the levy last July to raise an estimated 11 billion pesos (\$400 million) annually, but the impact only began to be felt at the petrol pumps last month.

The government at first took the levy from a stabilisation fund aimed at smoothing up and down in world oil prices. Once that was depleted the levy was passed on to the public, pushing up fuel and transport prices by at least 15 per cent.

Mr. Ramos temporarily suspended the levy within a few days of them taking effect after communist rebels bombed three oil offices and labour activists took to the streets in Manila and other big cities.

On Wednesday he made that suspension permanent, calling it a "momentous decision" that posed a challenge to the country to overcome its recurring problem of scarce resources.

A spokesman for leftist unions which have threatened to launch more nationwide strikes said workers were not satisfied because the levy was being replaced with other taxes.

"Eventually it's the people who will shoulder the new taxes because the rich will pass them on to us in terms of higher prices," said Nick Elman of the militant May 1 movement. "It's like getting money out of one pocket and putting it back in the other."

"We can handle that peacefully," Mr. Ramos said when asked about the planned street protests on Friday, a public holiday commemorating the toppling of former president

Ferdinand Marcos eight years ago.

The proposed new revenue measures would increase fees on registration of luxury cars, impose tariffs on non-essential items and increase tax on stock transactions, he said.

Government offices have also been ordered to cut operating expenses by five per cent and congress has agreed to pass a law legalising over-staying aliens, mostly Chinese, for a fee.

Mr. Ramos said increasing the stock transaction tax would not dampen the bullish local stock market, third best performing in the world last year, because the imposition was reasonable.

The government previously proposed to raise the tax to one-half of one per cent from the existing one-fourth of one per cent.

Turkish industry rings alarm bells

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish industry, after a year of impressive growth, is now sending distress signals as high interest rates choke demand and put investment plans in doubt. Industrialists want the government to act fast to invigorate local demand, suppressed by moves to defend the lira.

"The current financial crisis will seriously scar industry if the government does not take measures," Husamettin Kavi, chairman of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry, told Reuters.

Buoyed by strong domestic demand, Turkish industry recorded a brisk 12.4 per cent growth in the third quarter of last year.

But factories have trimmed output and channelled funds to government securities since the central bank raised rates last month to defend the lira, crowding out the private sector.

Interest rates, and thus costs, have been extremely volatile since the lira was devalued by 12 per cent against the dollar on Jan. 26, making consistent pricing almost impossible.

"Turkey can't turn its back on employment and exports," Mr. Kavi said, adding that recession would hamper privatisation, a key element in Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's deficit cutting plan.

Top car makers Oyak-Renault and Tofas Otomobil Farkitani, whose shares the government will offer to international investors in March, have already given workers a week of paid leave to avoid adding to large stocks of unsold vehicles. Some support industries have also halted pro-

duction. Car sales plummeted as much as 50 per cent in January from December levels as banks pushed monthly consumer credit rates to about nine per cent from 6.7 and squeezed loan portfolios.

Bank rates on corporate loans shot up to an annual 200 per cent, bringing fears of an increase in bad loans.

"Banks have either stopped giving loans or have become selective because corporate failures are expected to increase now," said the senior vice-president of a leading bank.

Most banks are placing surplus cash with the central bank, offering high rates to absorb excess liquidity, blamed for the lira's 24.3 per cent fall against the dollar this year.

Makers of consumer durables predict that strong 1993 profits will be eroded in the first quarter. "It's just very difficult to make investment decisions," said Turgut Aytekin, finance manager at KOC-owned Arçelik.

Mr. Kavi said the central bank should extend loans to industry if banks failed to lend at cheaper rates. "Otherwise, the government should stimulate exports," he added.

The money turmoil could badly damage Turkey's leading export industry, readywear, which sold goods worth \$3.5 billion in January-November last year, up 3.6 per cent from a year ago.

Readywear makers were already unhappy about rising cotton prices after the government liberalised raw cotton exports. Now they are forecasting disaster.

"Our industry will vanish in

four months if urgent measures are not taken," said Nur Ger, head of the readywear association.

Companies can hardly seek funds from the stock market, which has sunk 43.5 per cent since Jan. 13. High interest rates, a weak lira and grim economic prospects have depressed investors.

Omur Mutlu, assistant general manager for corporate research at Carsi brokerage, said three-month results of the automotive, durables and fertiliser sectors would be hardest hit.

"Food, telecommunications and construction materials will be those least affected by the crisis," Mr. Mutlu said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Negative influences in the form of Moon square Jupiter are in effect today limiting your ability to make gains toward your most cherished aims. Temptations will arise that can upset your plans.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to gain your aims by using more modern methods and get fine results. A direct course is the best to follow now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Private endeavours are fine to follow now, but be sure to carry through with what associates expect of you without deviating.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have excellent plans for getting ahead, but don't be too hasty in putting them in operation. Make good arrangements first.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to be more successful in business dealings and be more productive. Be more reassuring to mate and he/she will appreciate you more.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listening with interest to what allies have to say helps them to cooperate more with you, and you with them. Be wise so that everything is successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Making needed changes where you work is concerned will

bring more worthwhile results. The evening can be a most happy one with the one you adore.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have had a new interest in mind for some time, so delve into it now and get excellent results. Take no risks in motion or problems develop.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are conditions at home you want to clear up, but you could lose out on an important business matter, so postpone for now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Obtain important data you need from the right sources, then go ahead with plans you have made. Smile and be happy to those you encounter.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Assets from different sources could come your way at this time. The daytime may be taxing, but the evening can be delightful to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't permit anyone to force you into some situation that you know is not right for you. Be poised at all times today and show confidence.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Express your fine ability when called upon to do so today and please higher-ups. Come to a fine understanding with fellow associates.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon is Virgo squares Pluto and is followed by an opposition of the Moon to the Sun and to Saturn making individual uneasiness, stifling emotions, revealing secrets and making them jealous.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Analyse your position with friends and know which to retain and which to let go out your life for best results and your happiness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Conditions in the business world may appear strange now, but later can turn to your benefit. Be more self-assured in all of your activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't rush into a new interest before making a careful study. Take no risks with your reputation at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Come to a better understanding with the one you love. A new contact can bring many benefits your way which will be very pleasant.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Resolve a problem you have with an associate and cement better relations with this person. Be wary of newcomers who may cause friction around you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure to finish regular routines before engaging in

amusements. An argument with a friend is not serious, so forget it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to be forceful with others, or you could regret it later. Don't neglect a worthy friend of long standing or you may lose him/her.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to keep promises made to family members. A new project needs more study before going ahead with it otherwise there could be problems.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more objective in dealing with others and get better results. Use extreme caution in motion and avoid possible accidents.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to save more money instead of spending more than you can afford. Show others you have wisdom in any endeavour you are involved with.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A time to be calm and serene while going after a personal aim. Be sure to use your money wisely at all times today to get most from each dollar.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Taking on a martyr complex will gain you nothing at this time. Quietly get things done in a sure and positive manner for the best results.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"They say green M&M's make you more romantic! Come on, have another!"

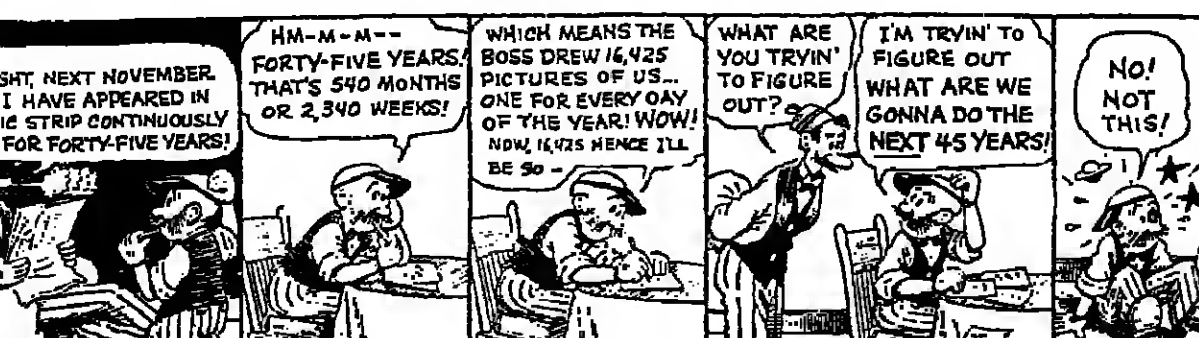
Peanuts



Andy Capp

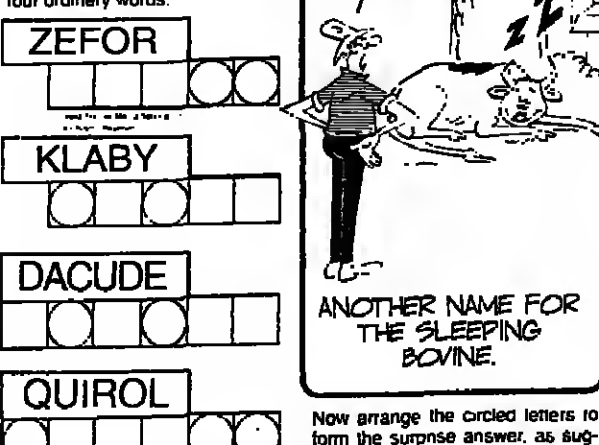


Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

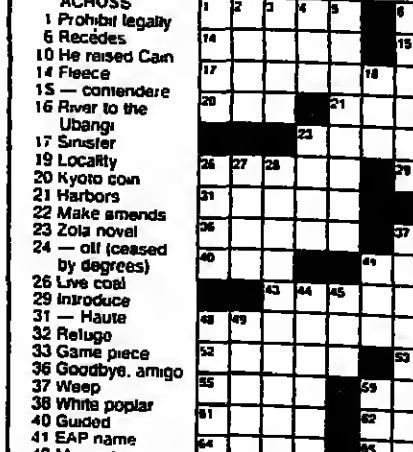


Answer here: A [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

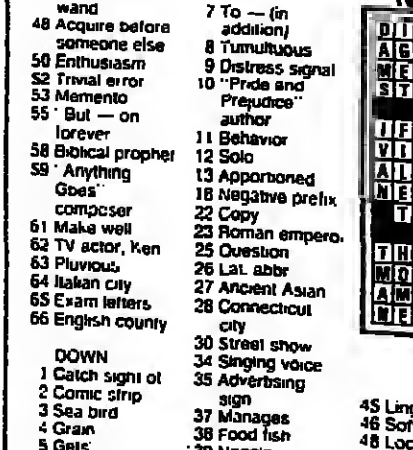
Yesterday's Jumbles: PHOTO FIORO DELUXE POLICE
Answer: When she helped with the baking, mom called her this — HER "FLOUR" CHILD

THE Daily Crossword

By Florence C. Adler



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

NOTES: BASE CURRENCY: JORDAN DOLLAR (JD) 1000 MILLS (M) 1000
UNOFFICIAL MARKET INDEX PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 23/02/1994

COUNTRY'S NAME	TRADE VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	LAST CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	11,500	193.000	193.000	193.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	100,000	9.000	9.000	9.000
AL-BALAD BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-FARAB BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-JAWHAR BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-KHAYMA BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-MANARA BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-NABAT BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-RASHID BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-SALAM BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-TAJDID BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-ZAHEDI BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-BALAD BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-FARAB BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-JAWHAR BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-KHAYMA BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-MANARA BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-NABAT BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-RASHID BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-SALAM BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-TAJDID BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AL-ZAHEDI BANK	100,000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Israeli banks limit credit for share purchases

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli banks have tightened credit to the public for investments in the stock market, bankers said.

Heads of the five major Israeli banks told central bank governor Jacob Frenkel late Tuesday they were limiting credit to customers for buying shares, bankers at the meeting said.

They said the banks stopped an aggressive marketing campaign urging customers to invest in mutual funds on bank credit. Mutual funds have large holdings in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The banks will be more selective now, only encouraging clients in good standing to take credit for shares.

Market analysts said the change could introduce more uncertainty in the market. Investigations into suspected share manipulation last week shook investors' confidence and sent the market plunging. The market recovered from the losses this week but more fluctuations were expected.

"In the short term, tightening credit might make it more difficult for the market to stage a recovery. In the long run, any restriction on credit will restrict demand," said David Rosenberg, research director for Pacific Mediterranean Investments.

The Bank of Israel and the treasury were worried that banks extended credit for share purchases with little collateral except the shares themselves.

The credit created heavy demand for shares and kept prices artificially high, analysts said. With share prices dropping, concern over the banks' stability was growing.

Gold price falls to lowest in more than two months

LONDON (R) — Gold prices fell for the fourth successive day Wednesday to hit their lowest level for more than two months as the market took fright over comments by U.S. central bank chief Alan Greenspan.

Bullion market analysts warned that prices could well fall further.

U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Greenspan told a House of Representatives Banking Subcommittee Tuesday that the Fed was relying on gold as one of its indicators of inflation.

"Greenspan has effectively put a stop on gold prices. If it takes off, he steps in," one dealer said.

Bullion was fixed at \$377.50 an ounce at its official London morning fixing, its lowest since Dec. 8 and down from \$379.40 on Tuesday. Last Thursday it was up at \$384.75.

Mr. Greenspan's remarks coincided with gold nudging a key price level at which investors could be expected to sell, pushing prices lower.

"His comment came at a particularly sensitive technical time with gold bouncing about just above the 200-day moving average," said Union Bank of Switzerland precious metals analyst Andy Smith, who placed that key figure at \$376.

"This is bearish for gold, in so far as what Greenspan is saying is that he will put up interest rates at the first sign of strength," he explained.

The gold price traditionally rises in times of high inflation as investors seek an inflation-proof store of value.

It is also sensitive to interest rates. As gold does not bear interest itself, low rates reduce the cost of borrowing to hold gold, making it more attractive as an investment.

In his previous address to the U.S. House Banking Subcommittee on July 21, Mr. Greenspan also referred to a link between gold prices and inflation.

He told the subcommittee then: "What the gold price reflects is concern about the purchasing power of currency."

"Within two weeks (of the Greenspan address) gold had its biggest one-day fall since the Gulf war," said Mr. Smith.

On Aug. 5 London gold prices fell from \$398.85 to \$383.95.

Dealers said the slide in gold prices which took them from a fix of \$384.75 last Thursday was taking gold into an area where a further fall was likely.

Official figures show further drop in tonnage handled at Aqaba in 1993

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, in decline since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, saw a further 13 per cent fall in total tonnage in 1993, according to official figures released Wednesday.

The Port Corporation of Aqaba said 1993 imports and exports totalled 11,633,870 tonnes compared to 13,383,501 in 1992.

Tonnage through Aqaba has dropped more than 62 per cent from a peak of 18,680,647 tonnes before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. Much of the trade has been diverted to Syria and Lebanon.

"...the siege of Aqaba since the Gulf crisis continues to affect negatively the port's activity, with cargo being diverted to Tartous, Latakia and Beirut," said Tawfik Kawar, chairman of Jordan's Shipping Agents Association.

He said more than 500,000 tonnes were imported by Jordanians in 1993 through Mediterranean ports because of U.N. inspection of ships bound for Aqaba to enforce sanctions against Iraq.

"There is a loss of confidence in the port because importers are unsure if their goods will be diverted to another port because of the inspections," Mr. Kawar said.

Total imports — including reexports — fell to 5,252,689 tonnes in 1993 from 6,021,703 in 1992.

Reflecting a widening trade deficit, imports officially destined for Jordan rose slightly to 3,977,188 tonnes in 1993 from 3,928,159 tonnes in 1992, while exports fell to 6,351,181 tonnes from 7,361,798.

Transit trade via Aqaba continued to decline because of the sanctions on Iraq, its main destination. Iraqi imports through Aqaba fell 39 per cent to 1,275,501 tonnes in 1993 from 2,093,544 in 1992. It exceeded six million tonnes before the Gulf crisis.

Iraq depends heavily on Aqaba for imports of basic foods, medicine and other humanitarian goods allowed under the U.N. sanctions.

Exports of transit cargo, mainly Iraqi sulphur before the Gulf crisis, collapsed to less than 28,279 tonnes in 1993.

Jordan, the world's second largest exporter of phosphates, saw sales of its main hard currency earner drop to 3,564,900 tonnes in 1993 from 4,265,880 tonnes the previous year.

Fertiliser exports also fell in 1993 to 412,245 tonnes from \$49,109 in 1992 and cement exports fell to 694,453 from 1,005,571 in 1993.

Only potash exports rose — to 1,452,063 tonnes in 1993 from 1,234,588 in 1992. The country's only producer, Arab Potash Company, increased its market share in Indonesia and China.

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tel Aviv Close
Sterling Pound	1.4790	1.3403
Deutsche Mark	1.7258	1.7244
Swiss Franc	1.4495	1.4505
French Franc	5.8553	5.8627
Japanese Yen	105.55	104.65
European Currency Unit	1.1830	1.1834

European Interest Rates

Date: 23.2.1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.125	3.375	3.5625	3.9375
Sterling Pound	4.875	4.875	4.875	4.875
Deutsche Mark	5.875	5.875	5.500	5.1675
Swiss Franc	3.000	3.875	3.750	3.865
French Franc	8.0625	6.000	5.8125	5.5625
Japanese Yen	2.0625	2.000	1.9375	1.9375
European Currency Unit	6.340	6.210	6.060	5.650

Precious Metals

Date: 23.2.1994

Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.30	7.50	Silver	5.19	0.120

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 23.2.1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0573	1.0375
Deutsche Mark	0.4643	0.4664
Swiss Franc	0.4607	0.4631
French Franc	0.1190	0.1196
Japanese Yen	0.6665	0.6696
Dutch Guilder	0.3601	0.3619
Swedish Krona	0.0416	0.0418
Italian Lira	0.0416	0.0418
Belgian Franc	0.0416	0.0418

Order Currencies

Date: 25.2.1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8480	1.8480
Lebanese Lira	0.040555	0.041575
Saudi Riyal	0.1656	0.1657
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5580	2.5600
Omani Riyal	0.1695	0.1695
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1695	0.1695
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.2765
Libyan Pound	1.5265	1.5250

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar	Deutsche marks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
1.3373/83	1.7278/88	1.9379/89	1.4515/25	35.55/59	5.8675/25	1681/83	105.45/55	7.918/29	7.4575/25	6.7320/70	51.4756/66
One sterling	5.777.50/378.00										
One ounce of gold											

Sudan stops its banks dealing with U.S. banks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has ordered its banks to stop dealing with their U.S. counterparts following an American government order that Sudanese letters of credit should not be endorsed, a Khartoum newspaper reported Wednesday.

Finance Minister Abdullah Hassan Ahmad, quoted by Al Sudan Al Doula, said the directive responded to a Feb. 6 order to U.S. national banks not to endorse Sudanese banks' letters of credit even if full payment for their value had been made.

Mr. Ahmad said the U.S. order would not affect Sudanese banks as he had ordered them to switch their business to Arab and European banks.

Mr. Ahmad, a former general manager of Faisal Islamic Bank, one of Sudan's largest banking institutions, said the American decision had not come as a surprise as the attitude of the United States towards Sudan was well known.

Washington has been a frequent critic of Sudan's Islamic government.

Iran Air to expand network

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran Air plans to add new routes to Europe, Asia and the Gulf later this year, the national carrier's director-general, Hassan Shafii, said Wednesday.

Tehran radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Shafii as saying the carrier will begin flights from the Iranian cities of Isfahan, Shiraz and Mashhad to Kuwait, Bahrain, Muscat and Doha.

Mr. Shafii said other new destinations will include Amsterdam and Alma Ata.

PIA increases profit

KARACHI (AFP) — National carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has increased its half yearly operational profits by more than \$13.53 million, PIA spokesman has said. Airlines revenues ending Dec. 31, 1993, have shown an increase of 7.6 per cent over the corresponding period last year, rising from \$366 million to \$394.

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South Africa's main black groups are on collision course

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's two major black groupings were on a collision course Wednesday over demands by the Zulu monarchy for its own state based on the boundaries of 19th century kingdom.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini dismissed the country's democracy negotiations on a post-apartheid interim constitution as irrelevant. Laid claim to a Zulu state and said his people would resist South Africa's first all-race elections in April.

But the African National Congress said the aspirations of the king, the nephew of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), would never be met.

"There is no way we are going to restore the boundaries of the 19th century or return to political structures of the 19th century. It's not going to happen," ANC Chairman Thabo Mbeki told a breakfast meeting of prominent businessmen.

"That is a non-starter," he added.

In a headline memorandum to President F.W. de Klerk, faxed to Reuters Wednesday, the king rejected the interim constitution thrashed out over two years by multi-party negotiations to meet the needs of post-apartheid South Africa.

The king handed the memorandum to Mr. De Klerk at a meeting in Pretoria Tuesday night. A government spokesman said the talks had been "difficult" but the two sides would continue to try to bridge their differences.

King Zwelithini's demand for a Zulu state is one more twist to tortuous negotiations

between the ANC and government on one side and Afrikaner separatists and black homeland leaders demanding a white homeland and regional autonomy.

The king said his claim of sovereignty for a Zulu kingdom did not require the approval of multi-party negotiators dominated the ANC, which is widely tipped to win the elections, and the government.

"Any interim authority and any legislation which denies the reality of the Zulu kingdom is for me not worth the paper it is written on," he said.

"My father's people will resist the election which you and political South Africa are attempting to force on us," he added.

The king has already stated he is prepared to promulgate a constitution for a Zulu state based on 1834 boundaries, which he says would include the KwaZulu black homeland, Natal province and disputed parts of the Transkei black homeland.

Mr. Mbeki echoed other ANC and government leaders in saying they had gone out of their way to accommodate the fears and aspirations of the conservative Freedom Alliance of right-wing whites and autonomy-seeking blacks.

Alliance members, including the white pro-apartheid Conservative Party and Inkatha, have refused to take part in the April elections. Some have threatened to oppose the polls with force if necessary.

Mr. Mbeki said an end to violence, in which over 14,000 people have died since Mr. De Klerk started to dismantle apartheid in February 1990,

was essential to free and fair elections. Much of the violence has been between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha.

Mr. Mbeki told the businessmen continued violence would damage economic prospects vital for the country's future.

ANC President Nelson Mandela met Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim Wednesday at the start of the first visit by an OAU chief to South Africa.

"I made no effort to underestimate the threat to the peace process from the right wing... But I made it clear that we are very confident we have the capacity to deal with that threat," Mr. Mandela told reporters at the meeting.

The April elections, he added, "will be held."

The right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) predicted more shows of strength by armed extremists claiming their towns as part of a white Afrikaner homeland — a "volkstaat".

AVF leader General Constand Viljoen told students at Potchefstroom University Tuesday night: "We will get our volkstaat (homeland) — no doubt about it."

AVF spokesman Stephan Maningor told AFP it was becoming "difficult to control our people."

"We don't want to embark on conflict," Mr. Maningor said, "but we could be forced into it."

He foresaw an escalation of armed demonstrations against impending black majority rule such as those in the towns of Newcastle in Natal province and Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State Tuesday.

In Newcastle, where some 3,000 Afrikaners — or "Boers" — gathered to demonstrate their support for a volkstaat, prominent militant Leonard Veenendaal said he was prepared to go to war.

He said his Orde Boerevolk was training Zulus to defend themselves against what he called an "onslaught" by Mr. Mandela's ANC, which is expected to win the April 26-28 elections.

In a separate development, hostile ANC supporters, some throwing stones and wielding knives, Wednesday chased President De Klerk from a mixed-race township here after he tried to address an election rally.

Mr. De Klerk was in this northwestern cape farming town on the first day of a campaign tour of the Northern Cape for the April elections when his party came under attack in the coloured township of Postdene.

The president said afterwards that African National Congress (ANC) leaders had lost control of their youths.

He called on the multiparty Independent Electoral Commission to take steps to prevent intimidation of candidates in the run-up to the country's first all-race elections.

Witnesses said Mr. De Klerk flinched as a stone struck him on the side of the neck below his left ear. He was unhurt and worried security guards hustled him away from the mixed-race township outside Postmasburg.

The township was the fourth stop of the day as he started a two-day swing through the iron ore mining region campaigning for his ruling National Party.



Masked Mexican rebel spokesman Subcomandante Marcos (centre) addresses representatives (foreground) of Mexican political parties during the peace talks at the cathedral of San Cristobal de Las Casas (AFP photo)

Mexican rebels urge government to address problems of poor Indians

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Rebels in southern Mexico are willing to disarm if the government addresses the problems of poor Indians, the masked leader of the New Year's revolt in southern Mexico said Tuesday.

"We are soldiers who are working to stop being soldiers," the rebel leader, who uses the name Subcomandante Marcos, said in an emotional appeal to Mexicans after a second day of talks with a government negotiator.

Appearing again in black ski mask and packing a pistol and ammo-laden bandolier, the rebel leader said it should not be necessary "to kill and die" to make the voices of Indian peasants in the southern state of Chiapas heard.

Without elaborating, both sides said progress was being made towards ending the guerrilla uprising.

Before talks resumed Tuesday, officials of seven opposition political parties met with the rebel leaders and expressed support for their goals of democratising Mexico.

None of the opposition parties expressed support for the guerrillas' violent actions, but none openly criticised them during the brief meeting.

The 18 members of the Zapatista National Liberation Army then went into the closed-door talks with government peace envoy Manuel Camacho Solis.

Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz, the official mediator, said the rebels presented proposals on national, local and Indian issues and that Mr. Camacho gave a general response.

"Today the important thing is that we are moving forward in search of a dignified peace," Mr. Camacho Solis told more

than 100 journalists packed into the 16th century cathedral in San Cristobal after the day's talks concluded.

The uprising in Chiapas state began on Jan. 1 in San Cristobal. More than 100 people were killed in fighting before the Zapatistas retreated into the jungle and the government declared a truce on Jan. 12.

Subcomandante Marcos said the rebels were laying their weapons aside during the actual negotiations.

His identity has long been a source of intense speculation. But Subcomandante Marcos said, "if you want to see the face behind this mask it's very simple: Hold up a mirror."

The meeting with the opposition leaders appeared to be part of the rebels' efforts to include national political reforms on the agenda — a proposal resisted by the government's negotiator.

IAEA is still awaiting N. Korea visas

VIENNA (R) — Governors of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency held a crisis meeting Wednesday as they waited vainly for clearance from North Korea for U.N. inspectors to check suspect atomic sites in the Communist state.

"There's no word yet on visas," spokesman David Kyd said.

He spoke as the 35-member board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), responsible for applying safeguards against the spread of nuclear weapons, met at the agency's Vienna headquarters.

The IAEA inspection team was waiting to conduct its first inspection in North Korea in a year.

Barring a last-minute breakthrough, it appeared that IAEA Director-General Hans Blix would be unable to report progress in the agency's efforts to carry out its task.

Mr. Kyd said it was not clear whether the IAEA would invoke the U.N. Security Council, which has the power to impose economic sanctions against North Korea if it fails to comply with the 1969 nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

U.S. and North Korean representatives met in New York Tuesday to try to save a fragile agreement for the inspection of Pyongyang's nuclear facilities.

They suspended their talks and agreed to resume them Wednesday.

The IAEA, North Korea and Washington with its South Korean allies, in consultation with China and Japan, have been trying for months to negotiate access to facilities the West suspects are being used to make nuclear weapons.

"We are discussing the future of our dialogue, where we go from here," U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Tom Hubbard said after Tuesday's New York meeting.

"And of course our willingness to engage in this dialogue is dependent upon their (North Koreans) agreement to the beginning of the inspections."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the purpose of the talks was "to help ensure that North Korea schedules these inspections at the earliest possible date."

Right could win absolute majority in Italy — survey

ROME (R) — Italy's rising right led by tycoon Silvio Berlusconi could win an absolute majority of seats in parliament in next month's landmark elections, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday.

The survey by the Cirm Research Institute, carried out for the newspaper La Repubblica, was the first in Italy to forecast the distribution of seats in the 630-member parliament, which will be elected on March 27 and 28.

Based on computer extrapolations of 20,000 telephone interviews, it said media mogul Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) movement and its centre-right, federalist and neo-fascist allies would win 310 to 340 seats.

"Berlusconi has captured the imagination of Italians," Cirm director Nicola Piepoli told La Repubblica.

He said the left now had to find a way to counterbalance Mr. Berlusconi. "The challenge is on," Mr. Piepoli said.

The broad left "progressives" Alliance led by the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) would garner 200 to 240 seats. While the centrist Pact for Italy and Popular Party alliance would capture 55 to 75, the survey said.

Other parties or single candidates unlikely to win three main blocs would win five to 35 seats, the Cirm survey said.

The poll contrasted with other surveys which have shown two thirds of voters

undecided about how to cast their ballots and another by the Doxa institute which said 81 per cent of Italians did not know how Italy's new dual-vote formula voting system worked.

Many political analysts and some of Italy's top businessmen also say they doubt any bloc will win an outright majority.

The March elections will be a watershed in Italian politics after two years of corruption scandals that have virtually wiped the country's governing old guard from the map.

But the new voting system, under which 75 per cent of seats will be awarded to single candidates in constituencies by majority vote and the rest by proportional representation from party lists, has been criticised almost across the board.

The Pact For Italy of Mario Segni, father of Italy's electoral reform drive last year, announced Tuesday that it had failed to obtain the required 2,500 signatures to enter an independent party list for the proportional representation section of the vote in eight of 27 electoral regions.

Mr. Segni blamed the failure in part on poor organisation but also on the electoral law, which he said preserved Italy's discredited old tradition of party power and would have to be changed again by the new parliament.

"We know we are Davids fighting Goliaths and that's how we want to go on," he said.

Russia seeks talks with Latvia, criticises Estonia

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin has written Latvia's leader to say he is worried about rocky relations with the former Soviet republic and would like new talks on the status of ethnic Russians there.

Russia had harsh words, meanwhile, for Latvia's neighbour, Estonia. Foreign Ministers officials Tuesday blamed Estonia for prolonging a border dispute that Moscow said led to a weekend attack on a Russian military checkpoint.

Estonia countered that Russia was "politicising" the incident. Officials in Tallinn said the attack shows the importance of withdrawing the 3,000 Russian troops in the Baltic country.

Since the Soviet breakup in 1991, relations between Russia and the Baltic states — Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania — have been tense.

The three nations, occupied for 50 years by the Soviet

Union, have demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops. But Moscow has said it is worried about discrimination against ethnic Russians living in the Baltics, among other concerns.

Last month, in one of the most serious incidents since Baltic independence, Russia put 12,000 border troops on alert after a Latvian official had two Russian generals arrested in a dispute over a base.

More than 130,000 former Soviet troops have been withdrawn from the Baltics since 1991. All have left Lithuania; about 3,000 remain in Estonia and 15,000 in Latvia.

Russia and Latvia are discussing a plan under which Russia would withdraw its troops by the end of August but keep control over an early-warning anti-ballistic missile installation in Latvia.

Speculation swirls over Japan Imperial baby

TOKYO (R) — Is she or isn't she? The suspense over whether Crown Princess Masako is pregnant or not has got Japan's palace watchers in a royal tizzy. "It is indisputable," declared court journalist Toshiaki Kawahara, "I have heard from reliable sources that she is currently about two months pregnant," he wrote in the weekly Josei magazine.

"Suspiciously plump," charged the tabloid Sports Nippon Tuesday after printing a photograph taken at a palace function this week that showed the 30-year-old Princess Masako in a billowing blue dress. Just a day later, On Wednesday, the daily Hochi Shimbun ran a more flattering picture of the empress-in-waiting in a sleek silk kimono. Captioning it "hang on. She's looking this way."

Both Princess Masako and husband Crown Prince Naruhito have flatly denied the talk. Which escalated after Princess Masako skipped some of her official duties earlier this month to recover from a cold.

"It's a pattern," wrote palace watcher Kawahara. "When Empress Michiko's first pregnancy was announced, she had missed some official duties two months earlier because of a cold."

"Princess Kiko, her sister-in-law, also skipped some functions the week before her pregnancy announcement because of the same sort of 'cold.'" Former career diplomat Princess Masako married Prince Naruhito, who turned 34 Wednesday, in June, 1993. "I am being frank with you and suggesting that the rumours are unfounded." The crown prince said in response to the baby question at his birthday news conference. "I regret to see that a piece of gossip has taken on a life of its own," he said.

Minister backs horse butchers against Bardot

PARIS (AFP) — French Agriculture Minister Jean Puchet has backed horse butchers against former film star and animal lover Brigitte Bardot, who is campaigning for a ban on horse meat. Mr. Puchet wrote to horse butchers promising them his support in the "media campaign" against them and said "freedom of the consumer" must be respected.

Meanwhile Ms. Bardot, 59, continued her campaign Tuesday, saying she had managed to cut horsemeat sales by about 30 per cent, with peaks of 70 per cent in some areas of France. In an interview with the daily France-Soir, she denounced alleged cruel transport conditions for horses being imported live from Poland and Greece. In his letter published Tuesday, Mr. Puchet said horses were slaughtered painlessly and said he regretted that "campaigns of this kind can damage a whole profession."

The letter said that as long as animal protection and public health were respected, there was no reason to stop the eating of horsemeat. On Tuesday, Ms. Bardot, who runs an animal charity called the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, said that Greek horses were deliberately mutilated before being exported to France.

Cat lovers celebrate Cat Day in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — "As useless," a common Japanese expression goes, "As giving gold coins to a cat," but nobody was saying that on Tuesday, Feb. 22 is Cat Day in Japan, and folks from around the country celebrate by flaunting talented tabbies in a nationwide cat contest. And while Japanese usually cherish conformity, judges at the eighth annual Cat Day Festival look for felines that pad to their own beat.

"Our criteria for cats is how they bring us joy. How they tickle our funny bone," said one Cat Day Festival judge, Naoki Yanase. "We don't care about pedigree. We look for uniqueness." The audience oohed, awed and meowed as the nation's 10 most unique cats, selected from hundreds of entrants, strutted their stuff. Judges scrutinising the parade of animals and quizzed owners on such timeless mysteries as "why are there guard dogs, but no guard cats?" and "what do cats think about when they stare into space?"

The winner of the contest was Myli, who perches on the shoulder of owner Tak Fukushima, "wherever he goes." "I've always been the only person walking around shopping areas with a cat on my shoulder," said Fukushima.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin foes get amnesty

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliament voted Wednesday to pardon foes of President Boris Yeltsin who staged an armed rebellion last October and an attempted Communist coup in August 1991. Deputies voted 253 - 67 for a resolution which also gave amnesty to businessmen convicted in the former Communist era for activities no longer considered crimes. The resolution said the amnesty came into force immediately. It also covered Communists accused of responsibility for riots in Moscow on May 1 last year in which a policeman was killed. The resolution, on the face of it a slap in the face for the president, could leave the administration secretly relieved as efforts to prosecute the rebels were proving an embarrassment. The package included a memorandum calling on the presidency, the government and parliament to tackle Russia's economic problems together "on the basis of a regulated market and state support for the national economy."

Dozens killed in Rwanda tribal clashes

KIGALI (AFP) — Tribal clashes in the Rwandan capital claimed several dozen civilian lives overnight, relief officials said Wednesday as preparations went ahead to swear a broad-based government in a bid to end ethnic conflict. Witnesses said they heard gunfire as former rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) soldiers, who are predominantly Tutsi, fought Kigali residents from the majority Hutu tribe of the Central African country. Government officials gave no toll from the fighting. A statement from the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda (Minur) said that an RPF soldier was killed when his patrol, which was accompanied as usual by U.N. troops, "came under fire by unidentified people." Minur's commander, General Romeo Dallaire, called for calm and asked Kigali's citizens to avoid gatherings and "not to give way to panic."

Indian bomb blast kills 5

JAMMU, India (Agencies) — Rioting paralysed Jammu, the winter capital of the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, Wednesday following bomb blasts that killed up to five people and injured 35, officials said. Crowds in Hindu-dominated Jammu, chanting anti-Pakistan slogans, pelted stones at police who responded with tear gas and baton charges, officials said. At least nine police were hurt in the clashes. Two bombs, which police said had been planted in a motorcycle and probably activated by a timer, exploded in the busy Indira Chowk area of the city. Police said they suspected "Pakistan-backed" separatists in India's only Muslim-majority state of responsibility. Angry crowds, joined by the activists from various rightwing Hindu groups, raised anti-Pakistan posters and attacked police and police vehicles. Meanwhile, Muslim militants ambushed a search party of Indian soldiers in a Kashmir village, triggering a gunfire that left six dead, the Press Trust of India reported Wednesday. Three militants and three soldiers were killed in the shootout late Tuesday in the north Kashmir village of Bharampora-Sopore, the news agency said. The troops had entered the village to hunt for Muslim guerrillas in a "special operation," it said.

10 dead in S. African dam disaster

VIRGINIA, South Africa (AFP) — At least 10 people were killed and 94 were missing and feared dead after a mudslide Tuesday at a South African gold mine housing complex, officials of the Randgold Company said here Wednesday. Officials at the Harmony Mine near the Orange Free State town 200 kilometres (125 miles) southwest of Johannesburg told a press conference that 80 houses were destroyed, 200 were damaged and at least 450 people were forced to flee their homes. Residents said a sudden downpour dislodged the barrier made of mining residue that formed the wall of a slime dam over the residential area of the Harmony Gold Mine in Virginia's Mernerspruit suburb. "Entire families" were missing, rescue workers said. Some of them said several of the hundreds of people treated for injuries had burn-type wounds, which led them to believe the mud contained cyanide, used in extracting gold. Police, army and civilian rescue operations were continuing non-stop.

Russian reactor shut down for repairs

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — A nuclear reactor at a power plant near St. Petersburg was shut down for emergency repairs of a cooling system pipe, officials said. Plant officials and Russia's Nuclear Power Ministry said there was no radiation leak. But officials at the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety said their colleagues in St. Petersburg told them "a small amount of radioactive iodine" leaked inside the plant. Oleg Bodrov, a local environmentalist, said radioactive vapour may have leaked through a vent and produced a brief increase of radiation that he said was detected near the plant two hours after the shutdown. "The plant's reactors are in terrible condition," he said. The plant is in Sosnovy Bor, 40 kilometres (25 miles) from St. Petersburg and 150 kilometres (90 miles) from the border with Finland. It has four reactors of the type that caused the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine in 1986, and is one of the main electricity suppliers in northwestern Russia.

IAEA: Indian nuclear plants are safe

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) gave a clean bill of health to India's nuclear power plants, saying safety measures at the ageing installations were adequate. The international body said India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was observing IAEA codes and safety guidelines at the country's 10 civilian atomic power stations. "The AERB is making substantial progress in implementing the required safety standards, comparable to internationally acceptable levels," IAEA Assistant Director General Morris Rosen told reporters. Mr. Rosen, who inspected several of India's state-run power plants, said the IAEA also welcomed AERB's decision to bring outside expertise into safety evaluation and its "initiative towards openness with the public." The IAEA executive dismissed as "wrong and distorted" recent reports that India's atomic programme was plagued by safety problems.

Pele row threatens Havelange's future

NEW YORK (AFP) — International Football Federation (FIFA) President Joao Havelange faces a growing outcry over his treatment of soccer legend Pele at the draw for the World Cup finals.

Outrage is so great, according to senior FIFA members, that the search has started for a successor to the Brazilian who has run international soccer for 10 years.

Havelange, 78, is so worried that he started special meetings with the heads of several national federations in New York Wednesday to soothe feelings. FIFA have called together the coaches of the 24 world cup finalists for a semi-annual meeting on Thursday.

Havelange has always been considered "dictatorial." But many member nations consider he overstepped the mark by

stopping Pele, the most famous soccer player of all time, taking part in the draw for the World Cup finals at Las Vegas in December.

Havelange barred the former Brazilian captain over accusations of corruption that Pele has made against the Confederation of Brazilian Football (CBF). The CBF's president, Ricardo Teixeira, is the FIFA leader's son-in-law.

Pele claimed the CBF accepted a lower offer than his for television rights to Brazilian football in return for a sum of money paid into a Swiss bank account.

Havelange's action particularly upset the American hosts of this year's finals. Pele is known because of his involvement in attempts to launch the failed soccer league in the late 1970s. The snub also overshadowed the showcase draw.

IOC doctors deny athletes abuse restricted asthma drugs

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Olympic medical chiefs said Wednesday they had initially been surprised by the number of athletes using restricted asthma medicines but did not believe they were using them to enhance their performances.

"For the moment we must not talk about doping. No, no, no," International Olympic Committee (IOC) Medical Director Patrick Sebasch told Reuters. "We were just a bit concerned."

Prince Alexander De Merode, chairman of the IOC medical commission, said 87 of about 2,000 athletes at the Winter Olympics had declared through their doctors that they were being treated for asthma.

"When you consider there are about 2,000 athletes, this is nothing strange," he said. A total of 1,956 athletes from 67 nations were entered for the 16-day games.

Initially, the percentage of notifications was high. De Merode said. On just one day 31 athletes had declared they were being treated for asthma.

But the figures evened out as more athletes arrived in Lillehammer and the competitors adapted to the extreme cold.

"To begin with, we were a little bit astounded," De Merode said. "It was looking a bit strange."

But he said doctors had investigated and found the three or four asthma drugs allowed by the IOC did not give athletes any significant advantage.

"We have seen nothing special happens. It was probably due to the high intensity of training and the cold," De Merode said.

U.S. figure skater Tonya Harding is among athletes at the games known to suffer from asthma. She is often seen using an inhaler to ease her breathing.

De Merode was quoted on CBS news in the United States as saying he was suspicious of the high number of athletes using asthma drugs but later said the figure was much lower than the 60 per cent he first specified.

CBS quoted doctors as saying the normal incidence of asthma was around eight or 10 per cent but that exercise or cold could bring on the condition.

IOC Public Relations Director Andrew Napier told a news conference the IOC split drugs into three categories — permitted, restricted and banned. The asthma drugs in question were on the restricted list and could be used if medically required and registered in advance.

German underachiever wins 2nd gold; Russia extends lead

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Germany's Markus Wasmeier whooped it up over his second gold medal. Italy's Alberto Tomba and Canada's Myriam Bédard hit the mark for her second win at the winter games Wednesday.

Russia built up its lead in the Lillehammer medal's race by winning gold and bronze in the men's biathlon.

On the 12th day of the games, Russia led with a total of 21 medals, followed by host Norway with 17. Thanks to Wasmeier's second gold of the games and to a biathlon silver, Germany moved into a 15-15 third place tie with Italy.

Also on Wednesday's Olympic programme were American speedskater Bonnie Blair's try for a fifth gold medal, in the women's 1,000-metre speedskating, and the long-awaited start of women's figure skating. That contest featured American rivals Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan and European standouts Oksana Baiul of Ukraine and Surya Bonaly of France.

Wasmeier, transformed from underachiever to national hero, came out of third place in the first run to capture the men's giant slalom by the narrowest margin ever. He joined Rudi Mittermaier as the only Germans to win two gold medals in Olympic Alpine skiing.

The 30-year-old German army sergeant summed up his

emotions Bavarian style. He let out yodeling whoops: "Ya-hoo ya-hoo."

Defending champion Tomba had nothing to shout about. The vaunted explosiveness that earned him the nickname of "the Bomb" was not in evidence on the 65-gate Haffjell course. Thirteenth after the first run, he missed a gate near the end of his lumbering second run and was disqualified.

Bédard's rifle marksmanship and cross-country speed in the women's 7.5-kilometre biathlon sprint gave Canada its third gold medal of the 16-day Lillehammer Games and put the maple leaf into 5th place in the medal race. With nine medals overall, Canada was one up on its North American neighbour, the United States.

Russia's Sergei Tepekov followed up winning the men's 10-kilometre biathlon, ahead of German's Ricco Gross and another Russian, Sergei Tarasov, gold medalist in Sunday's 20k.

In the men's giant slalom, Wasmeier edged Urs Kaelin of Switzerland by two hundredths of a second in the closest Alpine race in Olympic history. Wasmeier, gold medalist in the men's super-G, had a combined time of 52.46 seconds.

Kaelin won Switzerland's second Alpine silver of the games.

Christian Mayer, who led

the first run, gave Austria its first Alpine medal of the games — a bronze.

Anticipating a duel between Tomba and Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, a crowd of about 30,000 — mostly Norwegians — packed the stands and lined the course. Some were perched in trees.

But Aamodt, the World Cup leader, disappointed his fans by finishing 12th, 1.43 behind Wasmeier. Aamodt, super-G gold medalist at Albertville two years ago, was seeking his first gold medal at home. In these games, he has taken silver in the downhill and bronze in the super-G.

Tomba, trying to become the first Alpine skier to win gold medals at three consecutive Olympics, vowed to "do better in slalom."

"The course was too long and very tiring," the 27-year-old Italian complained.

Tomba had not won a giant slalom since the 1992 Olympics, but has won four slaloms this World Cup season. The Olympic slalom will be held Sunday, the final day of the games.

Bédard, who won the 15k biathlon Friday, became Canada's first double gold-medalist at a winter games since speedskater Gaetan Boucher in 1984. She also is the first Olympic biathlon champion from North America.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Simonet promises action over scandal

PARIS (AFP) — The new president of the French Football Federation (FFF) Tuesday promised a verdict in the Marseille-Valenciennes soccer bribes case by May 14. Claude Simonet, who was elected FFF president last Saturday, said "on my first day in office I made this one of my priorities. A definitive and clear decision will be taken before the end of the season, May 14, the date of the cup final." Allegations that a Marseille official tried to bribe three Valenciennes players have haunted French football since the match last May 20.

Graf breezes past Fernandez in Evert Cup

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Steffi Graf, getting ready to play Tracy Austin for the first time in 12 years, needed only 47 minutes Tuesday to oust Gigi Fernandez in the first round of the \$400,000 Evert Cup. Graf spoiled Fernandez' 30th birthday with a 6-1, 6-2 thrashing. Austin advanced to the second round with a victory Monday. Austin, 31, twice a U.S. Open champion, has been largely inactive the past 10 years because of injuries. In their only previous meeting, Austin beat Graf, then 13, in 1982. "I remember it very well," Graf said. "I lost 6-4, 6-0. It was my first big tournament. I was very nervous. She said something to the press that I didn't like at that time." Graf remembers being characterised by Austin as comparable to "hundreds of players in America." "I did have a lot of respect for her as a player when she was at the top,"

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SOUTH: ♠ A K 10 4 3, ♥ A Q 9 4, ♦ K 7 6, ♣ K

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Hadzibegic fights for FIFA recognition

SOCHAUX, France (AFP) — Faruz Hadzibegic, the Bosnian captain of French first division side Sochaux, is leading attempts to get his strife-torn homeland recognised by soccer's world governing body.

The Sarajevo-born defender, one of the carriers of the Olympic flame when the city hosted the winter games 10 years ago, says he is making soccer his weapon to help end the suffering.

Now 36, Hadzibegic is near the end of a soccer career in which he was once the pillar of the Yugoslav national defence. Since the splintering of the republic he has turned his

attention to helping those still in Bosnia.

He once rented a plane to go and get refugees out of the republic. About 20 Bosnians have been living at his home in Sochaux since the start of the conflict.

Last month, Hadzibegic met the International Football Federation (FIFA) General Secretary Joseph Blatter to plead the case of the unofficial Bosnian association for recognition.

The player said he was helped by FIFA officials to prepare his case. He added that most of FIFA's demands had now been met — and that

the rest depend on how long the Sarajevo ceasefire continues.

"Now there is nothing else I can do," Hadzibegic said. "FIFA must be able to visit the stadiums in Bosnia and the offices of the federation. There must also be two airlines open at the airport."

Hadzibegic had wanted to keep his efforts quiet. "It might seem out of place to be talking about football in the middle of a war. But if the people feel that sportsmen are struggling with them may be they will keep some hope."

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GHOST		Ahmad Zaki and Muna Abdul Ghani in: AL BASHA		CONCORD "1" No Where To Run Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		AMMOUN THEATRE Jabal Luweibdeh, Sayegh Commercial Centre Coming soon: The grand opening of the theatre	presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day	Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays	
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:30, 10:30		Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "2" The Rookie Shows: 12:30, 3:00 Arabic play "Hi America" at 8:30					

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abbadi meets with Saudi minister

JEDDHA (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is also head of the Jordanian pilgrimage delegation, Tuesday met with the Saudi minister of pilgrimage to discuss Saudi preparations to receive Jordanian pilgrims, particularly lodging arrangements in Medina, Mecca, Arafat and Mina. The Saudi minister stressed the keenness of his government to take all the necessary procedures to facilitate the stay of Jordanian pilgrims in holy places in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Abbadi commended efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia under directives from King Fahd to provide all the necessary facilities to pilgrims and to expand and renovate holy sites. The pilgrimage season starts in May.

Former Sudanese foreign minister freed

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has released a former cabinet minister who was detained after criticising the policies of military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir and his Islamic government, a Khartoum newspaper reported on Wednesday. Sid Ahmad Al Hussein, who held the foreign affairs and interior portfolios, was arrested last year after criticising the government during a symposium at a university in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city. Al Sudan Al Doula newspaper said Mr. Hussein, secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), was freed on Sunday. The DUP was the second largest party in Sudan before General Bashir dissolved all political parties in 1989 after seizing power. Mr. Hussein has been detained several times over the last four and a half years.

French oil companies invite Iraqis

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Oil Ministry officials are expected to visit France soon at the invitation of the country's two main oil companies, ELF Aquitaine and Total, a French foreign ministry spokeswoman said. Confirming a report in the Middle East Economic Survey, she said that the officials were technicians and their visit would not break United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The U.N. has linked any lifting of the oil embargo to Iraq's full honouring of its Gulf war ceasefire obligations.

Military prosecutor handles Zhirinovsky case

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian prosecutor's office has transferred to its military counterpart the criminal case against ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who is being investigated for spreading war-propaganda, the daily Izvestia reported Wednesday. Chief military prosecutor Valentin Panichev was quoted by Izvestia as saying that his office had begun its investigation of Mr. Zhirinovsky by interviewing witnesses and gathering documents. The paper said that Mr. Zhirinovsky himself had not yet been questioned. The criminal charges relate to a book the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader wrote before he was elected to parliament last December. The book, "A Last Push for the South," focuses on Mr. Zhirinovsky's belief that Russia's troubles stem from its southern neighbours and could be solved militarily. A spokesman for the LDP said Mr. Zhirinovsky planned to publish by the end of February a trilogy entitled "Russia's Destiny."

'Sudan foiled plot to kill Arafat'

CAIRO (AFP) — The Sudanese authorities foiled a plot to kill Yasser Arafat in Khartoum in December, the Egyptian weekly Al Ahali reported Wednesday. An Iranian diplomat serving in Khartoum and two Lebanese were arrested and held until the end of an Islamic conference, during which they planned to kill Mr. Arafat, the leftist opposition weekly said, without citing its sources. The three were later expelled. Al Ahali said they were found in possession of pistols with silencers and poisoned knives. Khartoum was tipped off about the plot by non-Sudanese sources. The paper also said most of the 1,900 Egyptians who volunteered to fight against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s were currently in Yemen and Sudan. The Egyptian government holds the veterans of the Afghan conflict responsible for fomenting fundamentalist unrest in Egypt, in which more than 300 people have died since the violent anti-government campaign started in March 1992.

4 on trial for fire that killed 5 Turks

DUSSELDORF (AFP) — Four youths, two of them 16-year-olds, are to go on trial April 13 for murder and arson in connection with a fire that killed five Turkish immigrants in Solingen last May, judicial officials said Wednesday. German authorities allege the four acted out of "hate for foreigners." They will be charged with five murders as well as attempted murder and arson, a court spokesman said here. The crime, which came after a similar attack carried out by neo-Nazis in the northern town of Moelln in November 1992, sparked an outcry against a wave of racist-motivated violence in Germany. The defendants, identified only as Markus G., 24, Christian B., 20, and two 16-year-old minors, are accused of having used newspapers and petrol to set the blaze in a house inhabited by Turks in the western town of Solingen, near Cologne. Three girls aged four, nine, 12 and 18, burned to death, while a 24-year-old woman leaped out of a window and died later of her injuries.

Porn movie actor slain in carbomb

SIDON (AP) — A dental technician who had starred in a pornographic movie with a married woman was killed in a car-bomb explosion Wednesday, security sources said. They identified the victim as Mohammad Al Sayegh, 41. Insisting on anonymity, the sources said Sayegh's two daughters, Howaida, 9, and Rana, 7, were in the car at the time of the blast and both were wounded. They were rushed to the Hammoud hospital in Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, and were reported in stable condition. The sources said a bomb, weighing 250 grammes, had been placed under the driver's seat in Sayegh's car, a Japanese-made Toyota. It exploded as he was driving his daughters to school at 7:30 a.m. (0530 GMT). Police experts were still trying to determine how the explosion was detonated. Authorities had obtained a copy of the illicit videotape in which Sayegh had starred with a 27-year-old married woman, the sources said. The name of the woman was not revealed, but the sources said they knew she had made the film with her husband's consent. The sources refused to speculate on the identity of the murderers, but said they believed it was linked to the film. They noted, however, that the husband's two brothers are active members of an Islamic grouping, which they did not identify.

Greece defends move on Macedonia

ATHENS (AP) — In the face of criticism from its 11 European Union (EU) partners, Greece defended its decision to block the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's main trade route. EU Commission President Jacques Delors sent a letter to Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu demanding that Greece explain the reasons for imposing the trade ban, after Greece continued to ignore EU requests for explanations. "Greece's position is founded in international law and EU law. But the problem is not legal, it is political," said government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos. He said that Athens took its decision because it believes that its neighbour has irredeemable claims against Greece that will further destabilise the Balkans. In turn, Greece's partners have accused it of destabilising the region with its action against Macedonia, and some have demanded that it reverse it. The European Union has threatened to sue Greece in the European Court of Justice, the EU high court. Under EU law, a member state can only enact a trade ban if there is credible threat to its own security.



LULL: A young Bosnian boy waits in line to get some water Wednesday in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo as the city enjoys a lull in fighting. Reports from Sarajevo indicated that a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire which went into effect two weeks ago continued to hold Wednesday, raising hopes that diplomatic efforts to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia could get ahead (AFP)

Restoration work near complete at Dome of Rock

JERUSALEM (AFP) — The golden Dome of the Rock Mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam, will be unveiled in its full glory next month when the scaffolding comes off after more than a year of restoration work.

"The completion date is March 20 and the crescent of Islam will be on the top by then and all the scaffolding will be off," said Patrick O'Hare, project manager for a Northern Irish firm which carried out the \$8 million repairs.

King Hussein finished the restoration of the 7th century shrine, which houses the sacred rock from where the Prophet Mohammad began

his night journey to heaven, according to tradition.

The dome, which dominates the old city of Jerusalem atop the Haram Al Sharif, has been covered with a two-micron layer of 24-carat gold.

The original dome was gold, but history says it was melted down to pay off one of the caliph's debts.

Mr. O'Hare explained that the lower aluminium roofs had been replaced with lead-covered timber and fire-protected while the old leaking aluminium skin on the dome was stripped.

New timbers were covered with waterproof felt, insulating felt and brass sheets. The sheets were electro-plated first with 15 microns of cop-

per, four microns of nickel and finally two microns of 99.5 per cent pure gold.

The mosque as well as the adjacent Al Aqsa Mosque have also been fire-proofed since the work began in mid-January 1993.

The structure was badly in need of repair after renovation in 1964 left an aluminium bronze alloy dome too heavy for the another structure and cracks appeared.

"We've carried out accelerated weathering test which indicate a life in excess of a century," said Mr. O'Hare of Morvan Overseas, which has also restored the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Police mount major anti-militant operation in southern Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — A policeman and a suspected Muslim extremist were killed Wednesday when hundreds of Egyptian security troops, backed by armoured vehicles and patrol boats, raided a town in southern Egypt.

At least five others were wounded in the gunbattle that erupted between the troops and the militants, including three policemen and a woman and her teenage son who were caught in the crossfire, security officials said.

Three other policemen were injured when their vehicle overturned during the operation, they said.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said 22 suspected militants were arrested. The Interior Ministry, which is responsible for security in Egypt, had no immediate comment.

Wednesday's raid on Al Badari, which is about 350 kilometres south of Cairo on the Nile River, was the latest in a series of raids by Egyptian forces.

The aim is to destroy the

hideouts of Muslim militants, who have waged a two-year campaign to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

In raids in Cairo on Feb. 1 and Feb. 14, police killed 10 extremists believed to be members of the outlawed Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which has been blamed for much of the violence.

In the latest raid, hundreds of police sealed off Al Badari and exchanged fire with suspected militants hiding in a date-palm grove near a cluster of small farm houses. Security sources identified the militant who was killed Nasser Mohammad Hammami. They said his brother, a leader of Gamaa's military wing, was killed in police raid late last year.

A policeman wounded in the shootout died in hospital, said the sources, who insisted on anonymity.

Al Badari has recently been the scene of extremist attacks. A policeman was shot dead in Al Badari on Sunday, and extremist suspected of firing at a

passenger train on Saturday were believed to be biding out there. Two foreigners and two Egyptians were wounded in the train attack.

The Gamaa claimed responsibility for the train incident, saying it was to avenge death sentences handed down by a military court against three extremists convicted in a foiled plot to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak.

The group had warned tourists and foreign investors to leave Egypt or risk getting caught in rising violence.

Also Wednesday, a policeman guarding a Coptic church in Cairo was stabbed in the chest, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. It said the policeman was in serious condition and that the assailant had been apprehended.

Security sources said the assailant, Farid Hassan Mustafa, 19, was a member of the Gamaa and had planned to kill the policeman.

More than 300 people have died in the two-year campaign by the extremists. Police, government officials and Coptic Christians have been targeted.

Jewish leader: Israel still needs philanthropy

TEL AVIV (AP) — A leading U.S. fundraiser predicted Tuesday that Jewish donations to Israel will continue and even intensify despite claims by some Israelis that their country has grown too rich for charity.

"Among Jewish leaders I've met with, it is believed that philanthropy to Israel will escalate," said Milton Wolf, the president of the American Joint Distribution Committee, usually known as the joint.

"They are not considering reducing their involvement or support," the visiting Wolf said in an interview with the Associated Press. "They want to build more hospitals in Israel, they want to build universities in Israel."

The comments came as many in Israel are calling for a reassessment of the country's relations with non-Israeli Jewish, especially the 5.5 million Jews in the United States.

The debate was triggered by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's assertion in January that the perception of Israel as a beleaguered, needy state was no longer valid in an era of approaching peace and virtually Western living standards here.

Supporters of the view maintain this image is baring pros-

pects of Jewish immigration to Israel from Western nations, which they feel the country needs more than money.

Jack Habib, the joint's director in Israel, maintaining that "along with the economic growth there are growing social gaps in Israel, poverty, child abuse, problems of the elderly and concern over school dropouts."

Mr. Wolf, a Cleveland, Ohio native and former ambassador to Austria, said Jews especially needed to help Israel absorb the half million immigrants that arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

He said about one tenth of the immigrants needed direct aid.

Of the joint's worldwide budget of some \$60 million, about a third was earmarked for Israel last year — a proportion similar to that in past years.

Last year, Jews donated an estimated \$1.5 billion to Israel overall, in sums earmarked for education, welfare and out-right gifts. In recent years donations have actually increased as a result of special campaigns to help absorb immigrants, according to estimates.

Kabul mob attacks Pakistan embassy

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan demonstrators attacked the embassy of Pakistan here late Wednesday, badly beat several Pakistani employees, smashed windows and furniture and burned the Pakistani flag in the street.

Security forces were slow in responding to what started as a peaceful march to the downtown embassy — where demonstrators wanted to protest the killing of three of their countrymen at the Afghan embassy in Islamabad.

Two badly beaten and bleeding Pakistani staffers narrowly escaped a lynching when they were dragged outside by the enraged crowd. A motherly man and two physically unhurt but severely shocked staffers were escorted out of the building after the arrival of security forces.

On arrival the demonstrators, after yelling insults at the embassy, quickly became emboldened and began throwing rocks at windows, then wrenched the brass name plaque from the embassy wall and smashed it.

Report outlines Jordan's agriculture strategy, pledges farmer support

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After a heated debate among deputies, the Lower House of Parliament Monday referred to an assessment report on the agricultural situation in Jordan to its Agricultural Committee. Around 40 farmers present at the House's session protested against the move. They had apparently believed that the House would immediately discuss the report.

Earlier during the session, Jordan Valley Deputy Ali Shatti, a known critic of government agricultural policy, criticised the report, drawn up by Agriculture Minister Mahdi Farhan. "There is nothing in it that indicates that the government is serious in solving the problem... nothing has been done to solve the farmer's problems," Mr. Shatti said.

In his report, Dr. Farhan presented a proposed strategy for agricultural policies in Jordan and stressed the need to improve farmers' earnings and their living standards. The strategy calls for increasing self-dependence in food, developing and protecting national agricultural resources; adopting self-sufficiency-oriented policies in using agricultural resources and achieving integration with Arab countries in agricultural production.

These goals could be achieved, the report says, by improving marketing methods, supporting and encouraging the private sector to assume a leading role in the agricultural development process, limiting the state's role to drafting agricultural policies and following up on their implementation as well as providing the necessary infrastructure, and ensuring effective public participation in the agricultural development process and related decision-making.

The report said 20 per cent of the Kingdom's population live in agricultural areas.

"Agriculture is the principal income-generating means for almost six per cent of the inhabitants," it said. Quoting 1992 figures, it said that 7.4 per

cent (44,400 people) of the labour force work in this field; 14,000 guest workers also work in the sector.

The agricultural sector contributed to around 16 per cent of the total national exports in 1992, the report said.

It said Jordan had scored significant achievements in the field of agricultural development despite obstacles. It listed the problems as under: — Limited agricultural resources, water and agricultural land in particular. More than 90 per cent of the Kingdom's area is semi-arid land that receives less than 300 mm of water annually.

— Jordan's population has multiplied five folds between 1953 and 1993;

— The marked development in the field of modern agricultural technology at regional and international levels has led to increased competition between agricultural producers.

But, the report maintained, despite these obstacles Jordan was able to increase its agricultural production in some cases as high as 25 times the amount produced in 1953.

In 1953 Jordan had less than 100 agricultural engineers. Now there are more than 4,000.

Jordan has reached the level of self-sufficiency in various kinds of fruits and is exporting citrus to neighbouring Arab countries, the report said.

However, it pointed out, due to the scarcity of water irrigation has become a decisive element in agricultural development in the country.

According to the minister's statistics, the amount of water used for all purposes reached 850 million cubic metres in 1991 of which 510 million came from subterranean sources and 340 million came from surface sources. Around 610 million cubic metres were used for irrigation.

According to the report, the scarcity of water has serious implications on the country's water security.

The report stressed that the government was pursuing efforts to enhance the role of farmers and cooperative societies.

Khartoum accepts U.S. bid for southern relief

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — After denouncing the U.S. ambassador for visiting war-torn southern Sudan, the government has agreed to his request for air drops of relief food to save starving people he saw there.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) also reported Wednesday that Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Salih said his ministry knew in advance of Ambassador Donald Petterson's plans to visit to rebel-controlled southern areas.

On Sunday, the ministry told the agency that Mr. Petterson's three-day visit last week violated Sudanese sovereignty and showed "open alignment by the United States with the rebel movement."

Mr. Petterson visited areas of recent fighting from Nairobi, Kenya, where most relief operations for southern Sudan are headquartered. He told reporters in Nairobi

after the trip that bombing raids had forced thousands from refugee camps near Sudan's borders with Zaire, Uganda and the Central African Republic. They are living in the bush, in fear and near starvation, he said.

The Sudanese military is the only force in the war with aircraft, but it has denied involvement.

The government claims fighting is between factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Rebel leaders and relief workers in the area deny that.

The Sudanese news agency said Mr. Petterson briefed Mr. Abu Salih on Tuesday about his southern tour.

"The ambassador told the minister that he had noticed displacements of people from a number of camps... (who) need relief to be dropped to them from the air," the agency said.

Aideed welcomes troop withdrawal

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed

whose militia bloodied U.N. forces in Somalia, said Wednesday the pullout of Western troops would improve chances for peace.

"The prospects for peace in Somalia are now much better than last year," a triumphant Aideed told reporters in Nairobi where he has been staying since the end of December.

General Aideed accused the United Nations of acting as an occupation power last year and of intervening in Somali politics with disastrous consequences.

He addressed a message to U.N. forces staying behind in Somalia: "All will be well if international forces stick to a humanitarian mandate."

Gen. Aideed, who has toured eastern Africa with his entourage like a president-in-waiting for three months, promised to fly back to Somalia's capital Mogadishu within days.

"The departure of the foreign troops will have salutary rather than adverse effects on the search for peace and a negotiated political settlement," Gen. Aideed said.

"We are surprised about the hysteria being drummed up in the media and in some other quarters that the withdrawal of the U.S. troops will somehow trigger off sudden explosions of fighting among Somali factions," he said.

Some 3,000 troops currently remain in Somalia, the spearhead of the U.N. force there, but Washington and other Western governments plan to pull out their soldiers by the end of March.

Gen. Aideed, the strongman in much of the capital Mogadishu and southern Somalia since 1991, called for continued U.N. relief assistance to his country.

COLUMN

Queen Elizabeth ends Guyana visit

GEORGETOWN (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II wrapped up a four-day visit to Guyana Tuesday and left for Belize to continue a tour of Commonwealth countries and former colonies in the region. Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip were given a rousing steelband salute at the British-owned "Forte Crest" Hotel as they left for Timehri International Airport. Hundreds of men, women and children gathered at the hotel waving the Union Jack as the royal couple departed. Accompanied by President Cheddi Jagan, the monarch motored from the hotel some 300 metres to the Commonwealth Wall Graves to lay a wreath before proceeding to the airport. The queen visited an Amerindian settlement south of Guyana's capital Georgetown Sunday, and attended a Roman Catholic mass. She addressed Guyana's parliament Monday.

Princess Anne arrives in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Britain's Princess Anne arrived in Addis Ababa late Tuesday to help publicise a \$75 million fund raising campaign for the U.K. charity Save The Children Fund (SCF) of which she is president. The princess will visit SCF's headquarters in Ethiopia before touring the south and southeast of the country where a major famine is threatening once again. Ethiopia has appealed for emergency help for an estimated 4.5 million drought victims later this year. Princess Anne will also visit Asmara, capital of neighbouring Eritrea.

Hyper-sensitive AIDS test announced

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) — A new hyper-sensitive test for viruses including AIDS-causing HIV, has been developed by researchers at the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, the programme's head Jorg Schuepbach said Tuesday. Called the "pert-test," it is 10 million times more sensitive than other tests to the enzyme common to all human viruses, the researcher told AFP. After three years of research into the test, funded by the Swiss National Scientific Research Fund and the Swiss League Against Cancer, the results were published last week in the papers of the U.S. Science Academy. The Swiss researchers said that, as well as being applicable to the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) causing acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), the test could revitalize research into other diseases including sclerosis, arthritis and certain cancers. Existing tests only detect the key enzyme when millions are found in the sample.

Church of England to have women priests

LONDON (AP) — The Church of England made it official Tuesday: It will ordain women as priests. The amendment to ecclesiastical law to permit the historic change was the last formality in a sometimes bitter and hard-fought debate within the state church. "It feels like it is all over now. It is the last legal hurdle," said Jan Fortune-Wood, who will be among the first women ordained at Bristol Cathedral on March 12. The vote by the Church's governing general synod came a day after a High Court judge dismissed a suit by a traditionalist priest, the Rev. Paul Williamson, who had sought to charge the Archbishop of York and Canterbury with treason. "We will have the doctrine tested in every corner in the land and Europe," Rev. Williamson shouted from the gallery as the synod voted. At least 1,200 women are expected to become priests in the next few months, beginning with the service in Bristol. Since the general synod voted in November 1992 to ordain women, 35 Anglican clergymen and several hundred lay people have quit in protest, according to church spokesman Steve Jenkins. Many have joined the Roman Catholic Church, which does not permit women priests.